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Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair signs a petition at a demonstration by a new group, calling for a commission of inquiry to probe the Bar-On Affair, in the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset last night. The sign reads: 'Enough of corruption.'

(Brian Hendler)

Ben-Yair in group calling for new Bar-On inquiry

By SARAH HONIG and HIRSH

A new organization, founded to demand that a state commission of inquiry probe the Bar-On Affair, held its first demonstration last night in Jerusalem. Among those attending the demonstration, in the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset, were former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, and author David Grossman.

Ben-Yair said that only such a commission, headed by a Supreme Court justice, could provide the public with the whole truth of what took place in the affair.

"Without this the public will lose faith in the government," he said.

He added that the police investigation was not able to probe the civic aspects of the affair, which are the most important aspects. It was to do precisely this, he said, that the institution of the state inquiry commission was established.

Ben-Yair's stand drew a sharp retort from the Likud, which noted that the call "has come from people who are very identified in their political opinions and who harbor undisguised hostility toward the Likud and the man who heads it."

"It is strange, however, that the former attorney-general should support this absurd demand to re-investigate what had already been so thoroughly probed for over

three months. He thereby expresses no confidence in the state attorney and in the present attorney-general."

Ben-Yair himself, the Likud spokeswoman said in her statement, "was a much-criticized political appointee. His current campaign proves yet again that his political inclinations outweigh his professional considerations. If an investigation is to be launched, then it should be into why he closed the files of leading Laborites charged with corruption and election fraud and failed to indict them. Likewise, the inordinate pension he awarded himself

Continued on Page 2

Meridor, Sharansky to head top jobs panel

By SARAH HONIG and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Monday began putting together a ministerial committee to oversee senior civil service appointments.

The committee will be headed by two of the staunchest critics of his role in the Bar-On Affair - Finance Minister Dan Meridor (Likud) and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (Yisrael Ba'aliya). Both are staying in the cabinet.

The Third Way announced right before Pessah that it is remaining in the coalition.

The committee is to include other ministers and several public figures from outside the government. Its final composition will be set after Pessah.

MKs Anat Maor (Meretz) and Dalia Itzik (Labor) have begun collecting the signatures of the 40 MKs needed to convene the House Committee for a discussion on removing Netanyahu from office. And Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen requested that the State Control Committee meet this week to discuss establishing a state commission of inquiry into the Bar-On Affair.

Meanwhile, politicians from various quarters have been urging the prosecution to reconsider its decision to press charges against Aryeh Deri.

Netanyahu met with Meridor who, despite his stinging silence during the Bar-On Affair and his private criticism of Netanyahu, finally announced on Monday that he would remain in the cabinet. Meridor said he decided to remain to fight for preserving the norms of proper conduct, noting that the Bar-On Affair exposed extremely severe "malfunctions."

He told Israel Radio that Netanyahu did not "emerge cleared of all suspicion but, significantly, there was no attribution of guilt to him. I had been concerned lest he was consciously part of a conspiracy. This has not been established, even after a very exhaustive and courageous investigation. If, after such a lengthy probe, the attorney-general could not indict Netanyahu, then who am I to decide differently and pronounce a verdict on the prime minister. I am sure that all the lessons have been learned from this episode."

Asked about whether Tzahi Hanegbi could continue as justice minister, Meridor said: "There is

no doubt that Hanegbi's failure to give the cabinet the whole picture of Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's opinion [about the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general] on the day of the appointment, constitutes a serious shortcoming. There is no doubt that this should never have been done. I won't say more than that."

Yisrael Ba'aliya decided to stay in the cabinet, but is demanding Hanegbi's resignation and several changes in the cabinet's operation and decision-making processes. However, Sharansky said the first demand is not "an ultimatum." Sharansky is to meet Netanyahu this week.

The Third Way executive conferred Monday morning and, as expected, also announced that it will be staying in the coalition, "so that we may continue working toward the goals we have set for ourselves."

The party's MKs will seek an appointment with Netanyahu to discuss the future functioning of the government. But the party statement said it "accepts the prime minister's apology for errors in the decision-making process."

Third Way MK Yehuda Harel requested that attacks on the

media and police cease.

A similar position was taken by Foreign Minister David Levy, who also was conspicuously quiet during the crisis. He does not like the attacks against the media and the police, either, but argued that "every citizen ought to be satisfied that no proof establishing the collusion of the prime minister was found. It's too bad we ever got to this situation."

"Netanyahu himself admits that the manner in which the Bar-On appointment was made was erroneous, but to err is human, and it is no simple gesture to admit mistakes. I wish to congratulate the prime minister for his courage. The ability to correct mistakes is no less important than the quest for achievements," Levy said.

Levy, Labor MK Haim Ramon, and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, meanwhile, appealed to Rubinstein to rethink his decision to indict Deri.

"Many segments of the population feel that there is a lack of equal treatment here. If no [other] indictments were issued, then Deri should not be the exception," Levy argued.

MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, who is

Continued on Page 2

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All 72 Peru hostages said rescued

LIMA (AP) - Peruvian forces stormed the rebel-held Japanese ambassador's residence yesterday, rescued hostages and captured the building after about 40 minutes of gunfire and explosions. Jubilant soldiers ripped the rebels' flag from the compound roof.

Local news media said all 72 hostages had been taken out of the compound, where they had been held for more than four months. There was no official confirmation from Peruvian authorities.

Morihito Aoki, the Japanese ambassador, was seen smiling and waving from an ambulance after it arrived at a police hospital.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, one of the hostages, was carried out on a stretcher.

The fate of the rebels was not immediately known.

Smoke billowed from the roof of the compound, where about 15

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NEWS

in brief

Stones thrown on Rehov Bar-Ilan

Haredim threw stones at cars on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday. No one was injured, but one car was damaged. Two trash bins were also dragged into the street, but police cleared them away. *Itim*

1 dead, 4 injured on roads

Zipora Ron, 20, of Elkana, was killed late Monday night on the Oranit-Kfar Kasim road when her car and a truck collided head on. The truck driver was held for questioning.

A 22-year-old motorcyclist was seriously injured in Netanya Monday night when he was hit by a car that swerved into his lane. Police suspect that the driver of the car was drunk.

Three people were lightly injured yesterday when their car ran off the Arava road and overturned.

The car quickly caught on fire and firefighters extracted the three from the vehicle. They were brought to Eilat's Josephthal Hospital, where they were in good condition. *Itim*

Man stabbed in Eilat

A 23-year-old man was stabbed in the chest and face yesterday at an Eilat shopping center. He was taken to Josephthal Hospital, where he underwent surgery.

Police found the knife used in the attack but as of last night had made no arrests. *Itim*

PA to use El-Arish airfield

The Palestinian Authority will begin temporarily using the Egyptian airport at El-Arish in the Sinai in the next few weeks, PA aviation authority head Faiz Zeidan said yesterday.

He said the field will be used for direct flights from Lamaca, Cairo, Oman, Istanbul, and Jeddah. *Itim*



Arafat meets Islamic leader

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat offers a model of the Dome of the Rock to Ezzeddin Laraki (left), general secretary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, during their meeting in Gaza yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Poll: Palestinian support for peace process down

By JON IMMANUEL

A Palestinian poll published Monday showed a sharp drop in support for the peace process, from 73% to 60%, during the past month. However, the drop was particularly sharp in the Gaza Strip, where there was 81% sup-

port in March after the Har Homa building decision.

The drop in support for the Oslo accords did not decrease support for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, whose decision to suspend talks and security cooperation appears to match the general public stance.

This was accompanied by an increase in support for suicide bombings, with 44% of Gazans supporting the Hamas attack which killed three women in Tel Aviv, compared with 17% support among Gazans for the attacks in February-March last year which followed the assassination in Gaza

of bombmaker Yehiya Ayyash. Support for Hamas jumped from 7% to 11% in Gaza in one month, the poll by the Nablus-based Palestinian Center for Research and Studies said. It was taken April 10-12 among 1,334 interviewees with a stated margin of error of 3%.

Hamas activists arrested

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli security forces have carried out a crackdown on Hamas activists in the West Bank over the past few days and Palestinians say dozens have been detained. The IDF confirmed that 10 Arabs suspected of hostile activity were taken into custody.

The arrests came amid a renewed campaign by the civil administration in Judea and Samaria to uncover Hamas fronts, including mosques, charities, health institutions and schools.

At least eight people, mostly students at An Najah University in Nablus, were arrested, Hamas sources told The Associated Press. Jamal Mansour, a Hamas spokesman from Nablus, said the arrests took place over the Id al-Adha holiday.

Mansour said Hamas would not stop its attacks against Israel until Israel stopped "its measures against Hamas and the Palestinian people."

Meanwhile, the closure on the West Bank is still in effect and troops will remain on high alert throughout Pessah.

Mansour, who met Monday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said Arafat has plans to hold talks abroad with Hamas leaders and with opposition leaders George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Hamas official: Strategy towards Israel remains unchanged

By JON IMMANUEL

The failure of the Oslo process means that Hamas has judged well and it has no plans to change its political or military strategy towards Israel, a senior Hamas official said, in a newspaper interview yesterday after his release from an Israeli jail.

Dr. Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, who was the spokesman for the 400 Islamic radicals deported to southern Lebanon in 1992, was released from Beersheba Prison on Sunday night after serving a 40-month sentence imposed upon his return in December 1993. He is considered the senior deputy and chief confidante of jailed Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Speaking to the Jerusalem daily *Al-Quds*, Rantisi said that "Hamas will not change its strategy nor its political program in its struggle with Israel. ... We said the Oslo agreement was bad and what has been achieved proves that." He called for a continuation of the intifada "which began with stones and never ended, but developed and continues to develop with new methods that Hamas is using. Hamas today has never been stronger."

He did not speak directly about violent attacks and suicide bombings, but stated clearly that he supported them. "We are not for use-

less sacrifices, which would be the case if we were sending martyrs to Hell, but we are sending them to Paradise," he said.

Rantisi was equally uncompromising about political dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, which he described as "a waste of time, but we support dialogue on daily issues of life to avoid bloodshed and civil war," he said.

Rantisi, from Khan Yunis, was sentenced to jail because his statements to the media at the deportees' camp in Marj-e-Zahour were considered inflammatory. Although his sentence could have been extended through administrative detention, the authorities chose to release him.

Arafat yesterday spoke militantly and with a hint of derision concerning Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent statements vowing a continuation of building on Har Homa. "We have to take into consideration it is completely against the peace process... We have all the capabilities to prevent it... He speaks too much," he told reporters outside his Gaza office.

Palestinian officials have been careful to avoid public comment on Netanyahu's legal and political problems. However chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said two days ago he feared

Netanyahu "will try to repair his credibility by escalating measures against Palestinians, expanding settlements, confiscating land and not implementing the agreement."

Yesterday, in Tzurif, there were reported stone-throwing protests by schoolchildren and five people were lightly wounded in a clash with soldiers, according to local sources.

The large village of more than 10,000 southwest of Bethlehem has been under intermittent curfew for one month during searches by security forces following the March 21 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, committed by a local resident. Since then, the body of murdered soldier Sharon Edy was discovered there and caches of explosives were found there.

Arafat's office has denied reports of renewed security cooperation with Israel despite coordination in the arrests of members of the Tzurif Hamas cell and meetings between senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials at the behest of the US.

Arafat continues his diplomatic campaign against the Israeli government stance on the Oslo accords. He met yesterday in Gaza with Ezzeddin Laraki, the general secretary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and meets today with Jordan's King Hussein in Akaba.

Palestinian teachers adamant on strike

Palestinian teachers said yesterday that a strike which has paralyzed public schools in the West Bank must go on, despite the arrests of more than 25 colleagues. Palestinian policemen made the arrests on Monday, among teachers who lead a strike in thousands of schools to demand higher wages and improved working conditions.

"The strike must go on and the Teachers' Coordination Committee will stand firm by its demand despite the arrests," said a statement from the group behind the strike.

Some 18,000 teachers began their strike at the start of April, in the first labor dispute involving Palestinian Authority employees.

"We demand the PA immediately release the teachers because their arrests are a rejection of their just and legitimate demands," the statement added.

The arrests highlighted internal

divisions within the Teachers Union.

The Voice of Palestine Radio reported yesterday that the Teachers Union considered the Teachers Coordination Committee an illegal offshoot. Teachers said the union leadership refused to back the strike.

PLO officials said union representatives had promised PA Chairman Yasser Arafat that the strike was over and that the arrests were made after teachers were seen forcing students to leave their classes.

"We consider this an incitement against legitimate Palestinian institutions and a deliberate attempt to create chaos," said Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, general secretary of the Palestinian presidency.

Teachers complain that they receive about \$400 a month, which they say is not enough to cover basic needs. *(Reuters)*

PANEL

Continued from Page 1

running for the Labor Party leadership, also came out against Deri's indictment, *Itim* reported. He said that the State Attorney's Office had "lost sight of the ethical and public aspects of its decision amid the thicket of legal niceties."

BatSheva Tsor adds:

The Movement for Quality Government on Monday petitioned the High Court of Justice to order Hanegbi's removal from office. The petition also called for suspending Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, until the results of his investigation are made public, and for publication of the police report. The court will discuss the petition at the beginning of May.

Similar petitions were also filed by five Meretz MKs and by Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav.

PERU

Continued from Page 1

guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru rebel movement had held hostages since storming a cocktail party to mark the Japanese emperor's birthday on December 17.

A large pool of blood, perhaps two meters wide, could be seen at the bottom of the stairway where soldiers led hostages down to freedom.

The assault was carried out by Peruvian troops, who poured into the compound through the front gate. For weeks, the diplomatic residence has been guarded only by police. It was not immediately clear when the troops moved into position for the assault, or what triggered their attack.

A huge explosion rocked the building at 3:39 p.m. on a sunny afternoon and smoke poured out from the compound. Ambulances rushed to the scene,

and a police helicopter was in the air.

Soldiers in uniform aimed their weapons from the roofs of the compound and from neighboring buildings.

A local television station reported as many as 80 soldiers had entered the compound, but that report could not be confirmed.

After seizing the residence, rebels released most of the hundreds of hostages over the next few days. But the rebels continued to hold the 72 men to press the government to release hundreds of their jailed comrades.

The government refused to release any jailed rebels, and direct negotiations to end the standoff peacefully broke down on March 12.

The hostage crisis had sparked a political crisis in Peru as well, and Peru's interior minister and national police chief stepped down over the weekend to accept blame for security lapses that allowed the takeover.

BEN-YAIR

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is also very deserving of careful public scrutiny."

Ben-Yair decided not to press charges against former Labor Party ministers Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Yisrael Kessar, as well as several Labor MKs for their role in fraud charges relating to the 1992 Knesset and 1994 Histadrut elections.

However shortly after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's victory last year, and before he left office, Ben-Yair put Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on trial for irregularities in the Likud's 1988 Knesset election campaign, after previous attorneys-general decided not to press charges. He also ordered a police investigation against former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

In addition, Ben-Yair prevented Tsomet's Rafael Eitan from receiving the Internal Security portfolio, after charging him with misuse of IDF information. Eitan was acquitted in court.

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הכרזת אישור

The Jerusalem Post
Hamas
activists
arrested

By APRIE O'SULLIVAN
 Israeli security forces have arrested 10 Hamas activists in the West Bank over the past few days. The IDF said the arrests were taken into consideration of the recent violence in the West Bank. The arrested activists were taken to military detention facilities. The IDF said the arrests were taken into consideration of the recent violence in the West Bank. The arrested activists were taken to military detention facilities.



Travelers line up before Pessah to leave from Ben-Gurion Airport. On Monday, British Airways had to cancel one flight to Israel and another from Ben-Gurion when Gatwick Airport was closed due to bomb threats. (Ronen Engel/Israel Sun)

Terror victims hosted in mass Seder

By DAVID RUDGE and Tim

Dozens of terror victims — families, individuals and orphans from all walks of life — were hosted at the Yemin Orde Youth Village on Mt. Carmel for one of several mass Seders held throughout the country, sponsored by religious councils, the Absorption Ministry, and local authorities.

Staff at the youth village, a religious educational complex that is home to hundreds of immigrant youngsters, hoped the tranquil surroundings and the attentive ear of the pupils would help those who were wounded or suffered bereavement as a result of terrorist activities.

"This is the third year running that victims of terror attacks are coming to our village, where we hope they can find a haven of peace and quiet," said Yemin Orde director Dr. Chaim Peri.

"The aim is twofold. On the one hand we hope that our

guests will find solace, understanding, compassion and support from others who suffered similar experiences, as well as from the staff here and our students. They need and deserve an attentive ear and a relaxed atmosphere.

"On the other hand, our way of educating our students is that they should share in everything here, including those aspects of life which are even more difficult than they themselves have experienced, so that they can also learn about giving," added Peri.

Hundreds of other immigrants participated in 12 public Seders in Haifa. Haifa police said they would be strictly enforcing the law against selling hametz in Jewish neighborhoods.

The country's beaches, parks, and roads were crowded yesterday, while today even more people are to take to the road to visit nature spots and attend entertainment events, like the

Children's Theater Festival, which opened last night.

The National Parks Authority will operate information centers at various locations.

For the first time, the Knesset will open its doors to the public on Hol Hamoed, and will conduct free guided tours for the public.

"Particularly during these difficult days, it is important to combine Jewish tradition with democracy," said Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

Tens of thousands of people are expected in Jerusalem during the holiday to participate in various events. Today there is to be a national assembly of Bnei Akiva. Tomorrow events include a reception by the chief rabbis and the mass priestly blessing at the Western Wall. Throughout the week there will be performances in Sacher Park. The Jerusalem Municipality has organized free tours of the Old City.

Conservative leader calls for end to Chief Rabbinate

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Ismar Schorsch, the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, escalating the battle with the Orthodox, has called for dismantling Israel's "dysfunctional" Chief Rabbinate, saying it is "without a scintilla of moral worth."

A total separation of synagogue and state "is neither conceivable nor desirable," he said in a letter to the 1,400 members of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly.

But, he said, "the time has come to dismantle the Chief Rabbinate and its networks of courts. Sustained by a political alliance between cynicism and fundamentalism, the system is today without a scintilla of moral worth."

In a letter to the government and Knesset released at the end of the first day of Pessah, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of the Hebrew Union College (Reform), called for the withdrawal of the conversion bill, which would confine the right to perform conversions in Israel to the Orthodox rabbinate. Itim reported.

Schorsch's letter, which was reported in last Thursday's New York Times, drew raves from the Reform leadership, an ambivalent response from the Conservative rabbinate, and apoplexy from the Orthodox.

Schorsch also said he was not calling for the abrogation of legislation for religious purposes or privileges, such as rules governing kashrut, Shabbat, or procedures for autopsies.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, head of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, applauded Schorsch's letter. "Jews and the Jewish state will benefit immeasurably by dismantling this massive religious bureaucracy that has been created over the years," he said. "We need a free market in the religious realm."

Orthodox officials, who would not be quoted by name, called Schorsch's letter "shocking" and "despicable." However,

the public response was more muted. "We don't want to respond to their attacks with equally reprehensible counterattacks," said Rabbi Steve Dworkin, director of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America. "For movements which have been castigating others for irresponsible rhetoric, such language comes as a very, very hurtful surprise."

The contretemps started some three weeks ago when the Union of Orthodox Rabbis — a minority Orthodox group also known as Agudas Harabonim — said the Reform and Conservative movements were not Judaism.

That statement coincided with the beginnings of the Knesset action on the conversion legislation. Taken together, those events propelled the Reform and Conservative movements in the US into a vigorous defense of their legitimacy, as well as an attack on the Orthodox control of Israeli religious life.

"It's bad enough that freedom of religion in America allowed [the Reform and Conservative movements] to do so much," Hersh Ginsberg, president of Agudas Harabonim, said Friday. "Now they are trying to penetrate Israel."

Ginsberg insisted that his ire was directed at the Reform and Conservative leadership and practice, not at Reform and Conservative Jews. "They are Jews, but their Judaism is not Judaism at all," he said. "Judaism that permits interfaith marriages is not Judaism. Judaism that permits driving on Shabbat is not Judaism."

Schorsch did not see it that way. Instead, he saw an assault on Reform and Conservative Jews that was reminiscent of the attacks on prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The declaration by Agudas Harabonim, "stigmatizing Reform and Conservative Jews as religious heretics, seems to be an ominous replay of events prior to the assassination of Mr. Rabin," Schorsch wrote.

Several Conservative rabbis said the chancellor was engaging in "hyperbole."

Itim contributed to this report.

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Floods threaten North Dakota

Deluge hits Grand Forks, but residents can't get a shower

By JEREMIAH GARDNER

GRAND FORKS, North Dakota (AP) — Louis Batonye passed up his last chance for a shower last Friday, before his water was turned off.

Yesterday Batonye was among the roughly 2,500 to 5,000 people who stayed behind in flooded Grand Forks, for whom showers were out of the question. With the city water plant shut down, water for drinking and bathing was scarce.

"I spend a couple of weeks a year on the Great Slave Lake in northern Canada," said Batonye, a fisherman. "The smell is becoming very similar. There's no doubt it's inconvenient. You get a new attitude." The Red River has risen so high in Grand Forks that even the equipment used to measure the brown floodwaters was swamped. The main US Geological Survey gauge was flooded, so officials could not definitely say the river had crested, though they said it was holding steady at about 16.5 meters — 8.5 meters above flood stage.

"We've been having a lot of difficulty just getting the measurements, because protection and property has to come first," said Russ Harkness, acting district chief for USGS in North Dakota.

Moving slowly north across the flat plains of eastern North Dakota, the renegade river chased out nearly all the 50,000 residents of Grand Forks.

"We knew we were losing it all, so we pulled all the steaks out of the freezer and had one last good supper," John Neppel said from Bemidji, Minnesota, where his family had taken refuge.

Those who stayed behind have had to cope with filthy, icy floodwaters that cut off running water and blocked firefighters from getting to a blaze that ravaged three downtown business blocks. Cleanup for the city itself could cost in the tens of millions, and damage could top \$1 billion, local officials said.

After visiting parts of the city yesterday, Gov. Ed Schafer said "it's pretty grim down here" and predicted

ed that for many people, the worst is yet to come emotionally, as the long cleanup begins.

President Clinton planned to fly over the area yesterday and visit the Grand Forks Air Force base west of town, which has become a shelter for about 2,000 people.

The Red has been pushing its way north for days. The cities of Fargo and Wahpeton were in the greatest danger last week; for the most part, the dikes there held. Now the Red is threatening smaller towns near the Canadian border and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Residents of Drayton and Pembina, North Dakota, and Emerson and Dominion City, in Manitoba, were asked to leave their homes.

A crack formed in a dike protecting Drayton early yesterday morning, prompting more people to evacuate, but the town was not flooded yet, said Corone Vaughn, a Pembina County commissioner.

A fertilizer plant in Drayton put out a call for help to move some 3,800 tons of dry fertilizer it feared would ruin the local water supply if it got into the flooded ground. Trucks were hauling the fertilizer from the Cenex plant this morning, Ms. Vaughn said.

"They're working feverishly at it, and it should be complete shortly," she said.

In Grand Forks, portable bathrooms and water tanks were set up in the city's unsubmerged west end. Residents were limited to one 1-gallon jug of water a day. The sale of alcohol was banned; bars and liquor stores were ordered shut by Mayor Pat Owens, who was worried about her residents' exhausted state of body and mind.

National Guard soldiers in airboats, rafts and personal watercraft zoomed past submerged cars on their way to rescuing those trapped in their homes. Some homes floated off foundations.

"I want to go back to something, at least the frame of the house," said Jennifer Butler, who left her downtown apartment and was staying with her parents in the west end.



The shell of a building gutted by fire yesterday stands amid the floodwaters of Grand Forks, North Dakota, after firefighters who managed to get close to the building first failed to locate the fire hydrants and then could not get enough water pressure to operate their hoses. (Reuters)

Dachau orchestra leader dies

SANTA MONICA (AP) — Herbert Zipper, a celebrated Viennese conductor who formed a secret orchestra in a Nazi concentration camp, has died. He was 92.

Zipper, the subject of an Academy Award-nominated documentary, died at St. John's Medical Center in Santa Monica of lung cancer, his biographer Paul Cummins said yesterday.

Zipper had first been imprisoned by the Nazis at the Dachau camp, then later in Buchenwald. After his family got him a visa and rescued him, Zipper went to Manila only to be imprisoned again by the Japanese. He later worked as a

secret informant for US Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

In Dachau, Zipper recruited fellow inmates who had been in Munich and Vienna orchestras to give secret concerts to raise the spirits of other prisoners.

Zipper co-wrote *Dachau Song*, a resistance song that spread from prison camp to prison camp.

"I realized in Dachau that the arts in general have the power to keep you not just alive," he told the *Los Angeles Times* a few weeks ago, "but to make your life meaningful even under the most dreadful circumstances." He also reassembled the Manila Orchestra

for concerts after Manila was liberated in 1945.

After World War II, he started bringing classical music to American inner-city schools. Zipper helped poet Langston Hughes put together music programs in New York City's Harlem.

The conductor's efforts continued in Chicago and, in the 1970s, in Los Angeles.

Cummins' biography of Zipper, *Dachau Song*, was published in 1992. *Never Give Up: The 20th Century Odyssey of Herbert Zipper* was nominated for an Oscar last year.

Weather foils plane wreckage probe

EAGLE, Colorado (AP) — Fresh snow on a steep mountain-side had Air Force teams on hold yesterday, and officials said it may be several days before they can get close enough to learn if metal debris is the wreckage of a missing warplane.

And even though the sun shone through breaks in the clouds yesterday morning over the jagged mountain, a new storm was moving in from neighboring Utah, where a winter storm watch was posted.

The Air Force believes the wreckage is that of the dir 9 million A-10 Thunderbolt warplane

that vanished April 2.

But there was no sign of Capt. Craig Burton, who was at the controls when the plane left a Tucson, Arizona, base on a training mission and veered north.

The site in the central Rockies, 25 km southwest of Vail, is some 1,300 km off course.

Weather favorable for lowering a recovery team to the site from a helicopter may not come until the weekend, the National Weather Service said.

Lower elevations had gotten more than a foot of snow in 24 hours, and no one knew how much

had fallen on the 4,000-meter cliff near Gold Dust Peak, where the wreckage of the A-10 Thunderbolt is believed to lie.

The snow poses an avalanche risk and also could conceal hazardous footing, probably making it too risky for the recovery team, said Maj. Gen. Niles Running, the search commander.

"We'll try to get a scout bird up today this morning so we can fly to the vicinity of the peak and check the conditions," he said.

"If we've received too much snow, we're sort of back to square one," Monday's blowing snow

grounded the powerful helicopter

needed to lower the recovery team. The helicopter, capable of flying at altitudes up to 5 km and hovering in stiff wind, never got closer than Leadville, about 60 km southeast of Eagle.

The Air Force might decide to send the MH-53 helicopter, the Air Force version of the chopper the Navy calls the Sea Stallion, back to Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, Running said.

The \$9 million plane left a formation with two other planes over southern Arizona on April 2 and veered off to the northeast.

ANALYSIS

NATO joins Alice — in Wonderland

By JIM HOAGLAND

Americans and their neighbors have no doubt been hotly debating whether American troops should promise to die for Ljubljana, Tallinn and Bucharest if need be. No? Don't worry. Politicians and their diplomatic advisers are thrashing it out for them. In July, they will let citizens in on their discussions and decisions, which they then get to pay for and fulfill.

Relatively few Americans can even find Slovenia, Estonia and Romania on a map, much less decide how much US protection these countries need and when they will need it. So the debate over NATO expansion into Central Europe has been limited to America's political and policymaking elites — "the chattering classes," as one State Department memo writer derisively characterized them recently.

That changes in July, when the 16 member nations of NATO gather in Madrid to choose

three or more candidate-members and to issue a statement solemnly declaring that the lucky first few will not be the last new members. A new wave of expansion will be decided later.

That statement will be crafted with the intent to lie to the Russians, the world public — and even to the governments making the statement.

The incontrovertible truth that the Madrid summit is obliged to deny is this: NATO with Russia inside its ranks is no longer NATO. Moreover, major European members of the alliance, led by Germany, have made it clear to Washington privately that they will never permit Russia to join. The cover for the Madrid deception on Russia is that the future cannot be predicted: NATO and Russia may both change so radically that their military goals will coincide in the future. My view: Russia we can't know about. We can be sure however that the Clinton administration is changing NATO into something new that most Americans will not

recognize and possibly will not support.

Russia has acquiesced to NATO membership for the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. But NATO officials are being pushed to take in one or two more nations in this first wave. The most active candidates are the ex-Yugoslav republic of Slovenia and Romania, which is strongly supported by France.

In the debate over the political meaning of the size of the initial expansion US diplomacy seems to follow (unconsciously) the Ernest Hemingway theory of work: Always stop writing while you still have something to say. That way you know where to start the next day.

Slovenia and Romania could be kept waiting. That would kick down the road once again membership for former Soviet republics such as Estonia, Ukraine and even Russia.

France's strategy may be the opposite: Take in five now, including Romania, to assure the Russians that expansion is a one-shot exercise.

That meets Moscow's demand to exclude the Baltics and Ukraine and eases Russian humiliation over expansion. This is not Hemingway. This is Alice-in-Wonderland stuff, created by the evasions and inconsistencies of an expansion strategy built on domestic political imperatives. Having reaped the votes of 1996 by his stand on NATO expansion, President Clinton leaves it to his aides to pick up the pieces.

Those aides already are planning a vigorous post-Madrid selling campaign to persuade Americans to buy the new improved NATO, through Senate ratification of amendments to the alliance treaty. That is when you and your neighbors get to gaze at NATO's proposed new borders and decide if you want to guarantee them into perpetuity or go back on the solemn pledges made in your name by Bill Clinton, Jacques Chirac and the others.

By then you will have no other choice. (The Washington Post)

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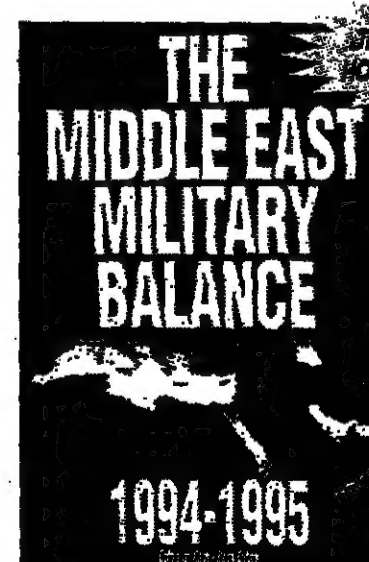
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הכרזת השלום



Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin review the honor guard upon the president's arrival at Moscow airport yesterday.

China's Jiang holds talks with Yeltsin

By News agencies

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin flew back to Moscow yesterday from a brief holiday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi to host visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Yeltsin will hold talks with Jiang in the Kremlin today and the two leaders will sign a political document mapping out a strategic partnership for the 21st century.

Jiang arrived yesterday for a five-day state visit that is intended to cement friendly ties between Moscow and Beijing - and perhaps give Russia a counterbalance to NATO's eastward expansion.

Jiang stepped off his plane to a warm welcome from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, then sped by motorcade to the

Kremlin, where he will meet Yeltsin today. The details of Jiang's visit were well-scripted in advance, leaving little room for suspense. Instead, much of the interest in the trip focused on its undercurrent of opposition to NATO expansion and the United States' role as the world's lone superpower.

In a written statement distributed after his arrival, Jiang spoke of "the establishment of a new type of relations between the Russian and Chinese states, aimed at long-term neighborliness and friendship."

Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the two presidents would issue a joint statement opposing "anyone's attempts to play the role of an absolute leader in international affairs," an obvious reference to the United States.

After decades of bitter hostility, Russia and China have cautiously established warmer relations in the past few years.

Russia, in particular, looked to Jiang's visit as a respite from its troubling relations with the West.

NATO's expansion "is leaving us with no other choice" but to turn eastward, said Mikhail Titarov, director of the Institute of Far East Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Yeltsin, who had been on vacation at Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, returned to Moscow for the summit with Jiang.

The Russian leader visited China last year and signed a breakthrough cooperation agreement with Jiang, though neither side has publicly raised the possibility of any formal alliance.

US places sanctions on Burma

WASHINGTON (AP) - Accusing Burma of "large-scale repression," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced yesterday a ban on new US investment in that country.

Albright said in a statement that Burma's military leaders have ignored repeated US appeals to ease repression and move towards democratic rule.

She said Burmese authorities have clamped down on political activities, arrested peaceful demonstrators and harassed those advocating a shift to democratic rule.

Albright announced the sanction on behalf of President Clinton, who was given authority by 1996 legislation to prohibit new private US investment in the event of "large-scale repression or violence against" Burma's democratic opposition.

Yesterday's action follows a series of sanctions announced previously. Albright said the new measure "will deal a further blow to investor confidence" in Burma.

The administration has been seeking with limited success support from other Asian countries for a strong stance against Burma.

In February, Burmese Nobel Peace Prize-winner

Aung San Suu Kyi appealed for international sanctions, citing what she said was increased repression against the country's pro-democracy movement.

Albright hinted at sanctions against Burma during a speech at the US Naval Academy last week.

"Unless the clouds of repression are lifted, they will face investment sanctions under US law," she said of Burma's leaders.

US efforts to make the pressure on Burma multilateral haven't worked, and the president believes taking unilateral action now not only fulfills the law, but might stimulate pressure by other countries, an administration official told *The New York Times*.

Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have argued against unilateral sanctions, the *Times* said in yesterday's editions. It said the United States is the fourth-largest investor in Burma.

The largest US investor is Unocal Corp., which has a \$1.2 billion partnership with Total of France to explore and develop natural gas fields off the coast.

However, the European Union agreed last month to scrap preferential trade benefits for Burma's industrial and agricultural exports to protest the use of forced labor there.

Iraq defies US flight ban

BAGHDAD (AP) - Despite American warnings, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein sent helicopters into the US-patrolled no-fly zone in the South to ferry Iraqis returning from the annual Moslem pilgrimage.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency said several helicopters flew Monday and yesterday to the Iraq-Saudi border. Information Ministry officials said one flight left at 7 a.m. yesterday.

The United States had warned that Iraq faced unspecified retaliation for the action.

"We will respond appropriately, but we're not going to shoot down civilian helicopters," presidential press secretary Mike McCurry said in Washington.

President Clinton yesterday did not reiterate the threat.

Asked if he had any message for Saddam, Clinton said: "We support people in exercising their religious liberties and in living out their religious convictions everywhere in the world. And we certainly support that in the Moslem world."

"But we don't want to see religion, in effect, used and distorted in a way to try to avoid the international obligations that are imposed."

He added that the United States would "continue to observe the no-fly zone and continue to support the embargo until (Saddam) lives up to the conditions of the United Nations resolutions."

The UN Security Council measures are not to be lifted until Saddam has eliminated all his weapons of mass destruction.

New Indian PM easily wins confidence vote

By KRISHNAN GURUSWAMY

NEW DELHI (AP) - Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral of India breezed through a confidence vote yesterday, backed by the Congress Party that had pulled down the earlier United Front coalition three weeks ago.

Gujral now faces the daunting task of keeping the disparate Front together and coordinating with the powerful Congress.

Gujral is the third prime minister since the elections in May gave no single party a clear majority in the 545-member Parliament.

Congress created a political turmoil when it suddenly withdrew support from the Front, accusing Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda of supporting Hindu radicals and blaming his economic policies for rampant unemployment and price increases.

The Front and the Congress together control more than two-thirds of the house. Speaker Purno Sangma said the vote vote at the end of the nine-hour debate clearly favored Gujral's government.

"I feel humble and grateful to all sections of Parliament that they have confidence in me," Gujral told reporters as he emerged into a crush of lawmakers waiting to greet him.

Yesterday, the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party - the common foe of both the Front and the Congress - questioned his claims that the government would be stable.

"How can this government survive? Instability is intrinsic in the government. It is built in," said Asai Behari Vajpayee, leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Other BJP lawmakers cautioned Gujral for depending on the Congress which, they said, had pulled down all coalition governments it had propped up. And they predicted that Congress would again bring down the Front government.

BJP lawmaker Sushma Swara speculated that Congress chief Shreeves Kesri brought down the Gowda government because he himself wanted to become prime minister.

She said several corruption cases against Congress leaders were being investigated, which apparently irked Kesri.

In his first public statement since his ouster, Gowda yesterday accused Indian politicians of being prepared to go to any lengths to grab authority.

"Power is the only main motto, to

attain power they would do anything, moral or immoral," Gowda said in a speech at a meeting of business leaders, apparently referring to Kesri.

As he opened the confidence debate, Gujral, 77, promised stability and continuity.

Somnath Chatterjee, whose Communist Party is a member of the United Front, said the coalition must be made to work.

"The voters of this country have decided not to confer absolute majority on any single party. So, what do we do? Give up trying to form the government?" he said.

Gujral, a veteran statesman and two-time foreign minister, named a Cabinet that was nearly a carbon copy of his predecessor's. Of the 40 members in the previous Cabinet, he retained 35.

He has pledged to stand by Gowda's budget, which was called a landmark in India's quest for more economic reform. The budget revived stock markets when it was proposed in February, but has not yet been voted into law.

But irked by power intrigues that prevented its leader from becoming prime minister, the regional Tamil Maanila Congress, has kept away from the government, although it is part of the Front.

South Africa says Zaire talks 'soon'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday he was convinced a meeting would take place soon between opposing sides in a bloody conflict in Zaire, but he could not say exactly when.

"Soon" was Mbeki's one-word answer when asked when rebel leader Laurent Kabila and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko might hold discussions.

"The decision does not rest in my hands," Mbeki told a news conference. "When we saw Kabila in South Africa, he said that he and the Democratic Alliance would like to have discussions as early as possible... In our contacts with President Mobutu, they indicated the same."

Mbeki was in the Washington area to meet with US officials and to attend a summit aimed at attracting capital to Africa.

South Africa, with the collaboration of UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, has hosted several meetings with the two sides in the Zaire war, which led last week to agreement in principle on a Mobutu-Kabila summit in South Africa.

"We are convinced that a meeting will take place," Mbeki said, but noted that the time and place

of the talks was not settled.

In Zaire's second city Lubumbashi yesterday, sign-writers had painted out the old Zaire Airlines billboards and replaced them with a logo honoring rebels who are acquiring emblems of state as quickly as they capture territory.

With their leader, Laurent Kabila, temporarily resident in Zaire's second city along with his ministers, Lubumbashi has become the de facto capital of the armed movement that is closing in on Kinshasa to topple Mobutu.

The rebels say it won't be for long; they confidently expect to be in Kinshasa within weeks, maybe sooner.

Meanwhile in the capital of the country's richest province - an area the size of France - rebel officials do business with executives from international mining companies and at the same time recruit teenagers clamoring to join the cause.

The success of Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) has apparently persuaded Zaire Airlines and the local Shabair to get together and rename their private operation Alliance Airlines (AAL).

PARIS (Reuters) - French Prime Minister Alain Juppe rallied his forces yesterday after the president called a snap parliamentary election.

Juppe pledged more of the same economic medicine and stressed his commitment to further European integration.

Addressing parliamentarians and senior members of his often fractious center-right coalition at a conference center in western Paris, Juppe promised an aggressive campaign that he said would win the election to lead a modernized France into the next century.

In the most daring gamble since taking office, President Jacques Chirac on Monday night dissolved the National Assembly and brought forward the election by 10 months to May 25 and June 1.

He argued that France needed a government with a renewed legitimacy to prepare for a single European currency and reform the state, cutting public spending and taxes. The Socialist-led opposition accused Chirac of preparing a new bout of austerity.

France's European partners see Chirac's decision as a bold roll of the dice that could make or break economic and monetary union (EMU).

Juppe said his party would build a modern, slimmed down state, free companies from over-regulation, cut spending and taxes and continue to build a "grand Europe" with a single currency while defending France's interests.

"France has nothing to fear but everything to gain from the euro, everything to gain from the Union, everything to gain from Europe," he said. "Let us be the

motor of this great adventure."

"National interest dictates that we must win because France cannot allow itself another Socialist fiasco," he said to cheers and applause.

But he denied he planned a sharp turn to the right with more free market policies and less social protection, as opposition Socialists and trade unions have charged.

The political scene plunged into the campaign yesterday and the government postponed its biggest privatization project, the sale of a minority stake in France Telecom.

The Socialists have threatened to re-nationalize the telecommunications giant, in which a 30 percent stake worth an estimated 30 to 50 billion francs (\$5.2 billion to \$8.7 billion) was due to have been floated next month.

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said the sale would be put off by four weeks, arguing it required a large public relations campaign difficult to hold during an election.

Analysts said the decision was wise since it removed the political uncertainty weighing on the sell-off.

Financial markets, still jittery from uncertainty generated by the early poll, began a comeback on the view the conservatives were likely to keep a majority.

Former Socialist prime minister Laurent Fabius said the snap election decision could backfire on Chirac.

"Will the French say 'bravo' to the rise in unemployment, 'great' to the rise in taxes, 'well done' for the increase in poverty? I doubt it," the Socialist parliamentary floor leader told Europe 1 radio.

Nicole's father defends damage award against Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Nicole Brown Simpson's father said yesterday that O.J. Simpson should not be granted a new civil trial for the wrongful death of his daughter, defeating the \$33.5 million award as "justifiable."

Simpson asked for the retrial on April 4, claiming jurors tried to destroy him financially with their judgment against him for the

slayings of his ex-wife and her friend Ronald Goldman.

The jury was swayed by "passion and prejudice," he said.

In filing court papers, Lon Brown responded that the "flagrancy of the misconduct" merited the \$25 million punitive award against Simpson. Simpson was also was ordered to pay \$8.5 million in compensatory

damages to Goldman's parents.

"Without question, the defendant's conduct in the present case is the most reprehensible and seriously criminal that our laws and society contemplate," Brown's response states.

Simpson contended he is unable to pay anything close to what he has been assessed. He filed a motion Friday seeking to exempt his retirement plans, saying they are exempt

under federal and state law.

But Brown's papers state that Simpson "has and will continue to have substantial sources of income, amounting to millions of dollars, for many years in the future."

Goldman's father, Fred, has also filed papers opposing Simpson's request for a new trial. A hearing on Simpson's request is scheduled for April 28.

Major warns of losing Scotland to EU

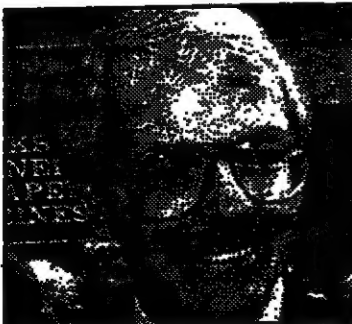
PERTH, Scotland (Reuters) - British Prime Minister John Major opened a new front yesterday in his election battle by adroitly linking his hostility to closer European integration with his opposition to devolution for Scotland.

Major said that because Brussels wants Europe's states to break up into regions, any further transfer of power to the European Union risked cutting Scotland adrift from the United Kingdom.

"There are two issues," Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth told reporters. "One is the fight to maintain the United Kingdom, and the other is the determination to ensure that we have a strong and successful Europe - that we are in Europe but are not run by it."

And that is a very powerful coalition that is undoubtedly going to provide us with considerable support on May 1."

Barrier, Major traded jibes with opposition Labour leader Tony Blair over who would best defend Britain in Europe, after a



John Major

surprise intervention by EU Commission head Jacques Santer. Santer attacked Euroskeptic "doom merchants" and insisted European states should move towards closer integration.

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After the Ivory Commission

The report by the Ivory Commission on the helicopter disaster that took the lives of 73 soldiers on February 4 is being criticized by defenders of the air force as going too far, and by some of the victims' families as not going far enough. But most of the grieving families—and most Israelis—realize that in the IDF, the proper limits of punishment are very difficult to draw, and that the most important objective is to prevent future accidents by learning from this one.

The commission could not establish the cause of the collision with absolute certainty, but seems to have, through process of elimination, assigned it to the broad realm of "human error." Through numerous irregularities were discovered in the course of the investigation, none of them were blamed for the crash. Given that no single decision or regulation is being blamed for the crash, the commission's recommendations were quite far-reaching.

It is natural, but unfortunate, for some people to assume that because there was a very serious and deadly accident, punishments must be meted out in a proportionate manner. The basis of this logic is that there are no real accidents, or that all accidents are preventable and responsibility for them can be accurately allotted. Some people seem not even to care about accurately attributing blame, but simply want the punishment to be swift and massive.

It is hard to know how well the Ivory Commission resisted these pressures. Given that the four officers to be punished were accused of negligence unrelated to the cause of the accident, the punishments were quite serious. The commission seems to have walked an appropriate line between ignoring serious irregularities and punishing for punishment's sake.

While some of the victims' parents are calling for the resignation of OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliah, most seem to be satisfied with the Ivory report. Many would probably echo the sentiments of one parent, who said "our son would be ashamed of us if we besmirched the military."

Of greatest concern is that the operational changes recommended by the commission are implemented as promised by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Most obvious of these is that helicopters transporting troops fly separately, rather than in formation, whenever possible, and when not, that a formation leader be designated.

But even the implementation of new regulations is not a clearly positive thing. Air force

officials already complain, probably with some justification, that there are too many regulations.

One regulation that the air force itself seems not to be taking seriously is the time-honored practice of protecting the identity of pilots. As part of a public relations effort to limit the damage to the air force's reputation from the accident and the Ivory report, the air force allowed four helicopter pilots to be interviewed on television without hiding their faces.

Some retired air force officers argued that the prohibition on showing the pilots' faces, adopted after the Six Day War to protect the pilots in case they are captured, is no longer relevant and was never proven to be effective. Others are horrified that such an important regulation would be so seriously undermined as part of a public relations campaign.

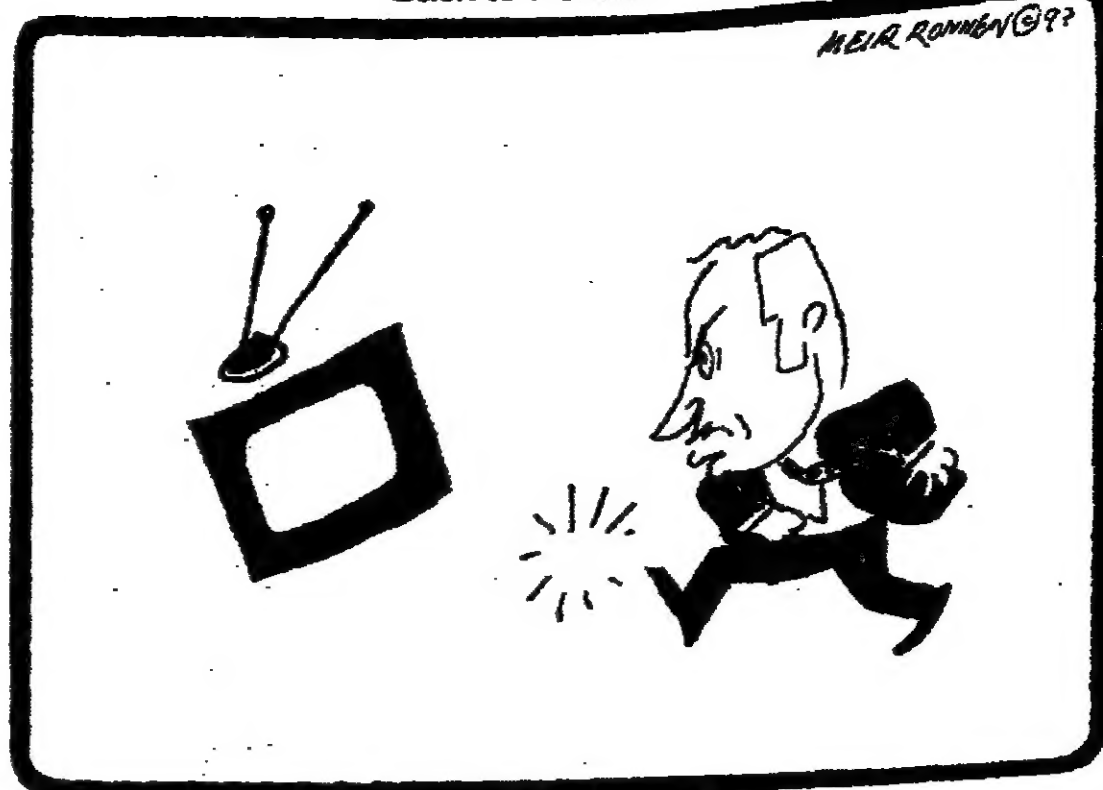
The air force says it is not eliminating the regulation, and that the step was taken on a one-time basis to accentuate the seriousness of the effort to bring the IAF closer to the public and convey its "message." Part of this message, judging from comments by one of the pilots, is not to add to their regulatory burden.

"When there is a pile of regulations on top of us, we don't fly as well. When regulations pop up for the sake of regulations, the situation becomes much more complicated," the pilot said.

The answer to this problem, however, is not to eliminate accident investigations and the conclusions they reach. The answer is to regularly review and streamline regulations, to strike the right balance between safety, efficiency and discipline on the one hand and creativity, judgment and responsibility on the other. As the public perceives the threat of war to be reduced and as Israel becomes more of a "normal" country, it is natural for the public's "right to know" and desire for maximum safety to come to the fore. It is also necessary for the military to resist these pressures when they threaten to dull its fighting edge.

The proper way for the military to resist dangerous pressures is not with public relations campaigns, but with internally driven reforms that react to changing public needs without undermining military effectiveness. One idea whose time may have come is to create a permanent semi-independent body to investigate military accidents. Another is to systematically remove obsolete regulations, while accepting with equanimity those new regulations that are needed to save lives.

Back to Routine



Sword of Damocles

Whatever the political fallout of the Bar-On Affair, one thing is clear: Attorney-General Rubinstein did not bring forth an indictment against Prime Minister Netanyahu and Justice Minister Hanegbi for one reason only: the lack of a "smoking gun." Rubinstein called it the "black box," after the device which enables air-crash investigators to understand what went fatally wrong.

However, his metaphor is misleading, for black boxes are dredged up after we've seen the disaster; in this case, we need the evidence that indeed a moral-political disaster has occurred. Thus, the smoking-gun metaphor—first used in the Watergate case—is more appropriate.

Despite the prime minister's public-relations spin — "the attorney-general has concluded that I am not guilty of any crime" — a close reading of the public report shows the reverse to be the case. Elyakim Rubinstein has shown admirable circumspection in not bringing forth a bill of indictment only because the police did not succeed in incontrovertibly "getting the goods" on the prime minister, and not because there is no evidence of malfeasance. There has been no exoneration. The prime minister has been let off the hook by the skin of his teeth.

The coming days will tell whether the political damage is fatal or merely passing. For all the public speculation, it is doubtful whether even the biblical prophets would be successful in trying to predict Israeli politics. But the affair's long-term effect and

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG

implications can be discussed. Paradoxically, this brush with a deadly blow to the rule of law and decent government will most probably have an extremely positive influence on democratic behavior and rule. Indeed, the Bar-On investigation can be viewed as another brick in the

It hangs over our leaders as never before

evolving edifice of clean government.

WERE we to ask the general public whether it thought the behavior of Netanyahu, Deri et al was unusual, the overwhelming response would be "no!"

They did it back in the days of Mapai, they did it under Begin and Shamir, etc. The "it" may not have been exactly of this nature, but it certainly wasn't clean. The difference, though, between then and now is that increasingly the rest of the governing authorities—state comptroller, state attorney, Supreme Court, police—as well as the media, are not willing to let "business as usual" continue as usual.

The recent rash of indictments against several mayors, Jewish Agency officials, Histadrut functionaries, and members of Knesset bears this out. The fact that in many of these cases the accused

were "exonerated" (most of the time accompanied by a ringing public-moral indictment or censure of their actions by the presiding judges), only reflects the strict standards of evidence by which the Israeli courts render their judgments (remember Demjanjuk?)—the overriding consideration of State Attorney Arbel and Rubinstein in our present case.

But the Sword of Damocles hangs heavy over Israeli public servants in a way previous officials never had to worry about. The very near judicial kiss of death which our prime minister just managed to avoid only sharpens the edge of that sword.

Democracy is a messy affair. But developing and nurturing a relatively clean democracy is even more messy. (Think of how many "reform" movements had to rise and fall in the US before American democracy reached its present relatively moral level.)

The Bar-On Affair is probably a watershed in our history in that respect—an affair so traumatic for the people involved, so riveting and educational for the public at large, that it will not be quickly forgotten by ruler and ruled alike.

The police failed to find the smoking gun. However, the gun of judicial retribution is now more clearly pointed at government malfeasance than ever before. The long-term effect of the Bar-On Affair, therefore, should be quite salutary.

The writer is associate professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University.

Fear of fanatics

HARVEY J. FIELDS

The philosopher Bertrand Russell observed that "Fanaticism is the gravest danger there is."

Fanatics grip their "truth" as if it was exclusively presented to them, and they ride on the conviction that those who oppose them are not only "wrongheaded" but should be roundly denounced as enemies, sometimes murdered. Such fanatics—whether Christian, Moslem or Jewish—are a part of what sociologist Peter Berger identifies as the anxious and, often, terrified response to modernity.

The latest grandstanding by the fanatical Union of Orthodox Rabbis in declaring "that Reform and Conservative are not Judaism at all" is outrageous. The vicious attack by this tiny fringe not only questions the spiritual integrity of 90 percent of North American Jews, but it mocks the meaning of Judaism and the historic unity of the Jewish people.

The Torah has never been the exclusive property of one segment of the Jewish people. Moses was told to hand Torah down to the people. Nor was the Torah solely the possession of the priests, prophets, rabbis, Sadducees and Pharisees, of Hillel or Shammai, Rashi or Maimonides.

Judaism is a vibrant democracy of interpretations, of minority opinions in one age becoming majority opinions in another. Diversity of opinions, often argued passionately, is the hallmark of our legacy.

Jews are a people who have cherished and promoted the dialectic of differing views about God and Torah. We have never had, nor have, a single individual or group empowered to define our faith and traditions forever.

Even among the "Orthodox" there are many differing communities and points of view. The Baal Shem Tov had it correct when he taught that "Torah is

Orthodox contempt must be denounced

interpreted in accordance with the age."

Judaism is a vibrant legacy because the Torah is not the exclusive property of one group of rabbis, but remains open to many applications and meanings—a glorious and exciting challenge to all Jews whether they are Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Orthodox or secular.

But the seriousness of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis' charge goes beyond their fallacious assertion that they alone possess the "true" interpretation of Torah. Their arrogant declaration that Reform and Conservative Jews should "withdraw from their heretical temples and clergy" is a brazen attack on the cherished value of respect for other Jews and for Jewish unity.

When one segment of Jews seeks to disenfranchise another, it does great harm to the Jewish community. Opponents of Jewish pluralism pollute the air of cooperation between us.

With their malicious twisting of facts, their deliberate and demeaning lies about Reform and Conservative Jews "altering, misrepresenting and distorting Jewish law to further their assimilationist aims," the Union of Orthodox Rabbis sows suspicion and hostility in our midst.

WHERE does the gumption for such action on the part of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis come from?

Much of it derives from Israel's Orthodox political parties, which occupy 23 seats in the Knesset. These parties have pressured the Netanyahu government to push forward a bill that will declare illegitimate all conversions performed by Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel. They have stirred riots over closing streets on Shabbat, have pressured for the shutdown of art exhibits they considered objectionable, and recently certain individuals stormed a Jehovah's Witnesses Church in Lod, desecrating the building with graffiti and harassing worshippers.

These efforts of fanatics in Israel, together with the "declaration" of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, all follow a similar stratagem.

First, they seek to delegitimize their victims. Then, feeling justified, they plunge the sword into the Jewish body.

It is time for such teachers of contempt to be denounced.

The moment has arrived for moderate Orthodox leaders to censure them with a force of Jewish conscience. And it is time to send a message to Prime Minister Netanyahu that the state of Israel should no longer be held hostage to such dangerous extremism.

The writer is senior rabbi of Wilshire Boulevard Temple and a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency. (Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RETURN THE PEACE PRIZE

Sir, — Even those of us who thought that Prime Minister Netanyahu was unwise to make the housing project on Har Homa the issue over which to assert to the Palestinian Arabs and the nations of the world that "undivided Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel" realize that Arafat would have found some other excuse to return to the policy of violence. Even if the housing project is halted tomorrow, this would not alter the new strategy and tactics of the PLO chairman and would only strengthen his conviction that Israel will back down and accept all of the Arab demands only through the use of violence.

At Oslo, Arafat committed himself to a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For this commitment, Arafat received the Nobel Peace Prize. By giving the green light to rock throwing, suicide bombers and the murder of Israelis only two years after receiving the award, Arafat has made a mockery of the committee which gave him the coveted peace prize. He should be asked by the committee to return it.

JOSHUA J. ADLER

Jerusalem.

NO COALITION

Sir, — I admit I am writing from the safety of the US, but as a believer in the right of the Jewish people to live anywhere in the Land of Israel under Jewish sovereignty, I question the practical judgment of the prime minister if he seeks a coalition with Labor.

The last thing Israel needs is more "guidance" from the folks who armed the Palestinian police and surrendered Hebron to terrorist control.

Labor built a revolution of rising expectations in the terrorist camp which makes them "expect" that they will be given East Jerusalem.

They sold our birthrights for a "pretend peace" from thugs who kill innocent children each time their demands are not met.

DAVID GROSSACK

Cambridge, Mass.

AHMED TIBI

Sir, — As I write, Dr. Ahmed Tibi is, according to the radio news, in Amman, consulting on behalf of the Palestinian Authority with the prime minister of Jordan.

For those unaware, Dr. Tibi is a citizen of Israel and enjoys all the rights and privileges of Israeli citizenship, including untrammeled passage to an from areas controlled by the PA. He is also an "advisor" to the Palestinian Authority. Few will argue that, in representing the PA before a foreign government, Dr. Tibi has not crossed a significant red line (among others he has crossed previously). Not less than the use of Orient House as a PA foreign ministry, Dr. Tibi, in his capacity as a PA functionary, is an affront to Israeli sovereignty.

In my opinion, the farce has continued quite long enough. The former government, being devoted to capitulation, permitted Dr. Tibi to work both sides of the street. There is no reason to continue the absurdity. Dr. Tibi should be offered forthwith the option of forfeiting his citizenship and moving his family to Area A, or alternatively remaining among us and acting as a private citizen.

STAN GOODMAN

Kiryat Ono.

INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

Sir, — Moshe Bleicher, head of the Shavei Hevron Yeshiva, wants a medal awarded to the two yeshiva students, one of whom shot and killed a Palestinian who allegedly threw stones and/or tear gas at them (your report of April 9). This is a rabbi we are talking about, a teacher of, among others, the Ten Commandments, and he wants a medal awarded to someone who killed an unarmed man throwing stones.

How can anybody expect the Palestinians to be any more reasonable and forthcoming than the likes of Moshe Bleicher? I am not a legal expert, but is this incitement to violence, encouragement to murder, or what?

DR. CLEMENS PETERBAUER

Rehovot.

HOPEFUL SIGHT

Sir, — I opened The Jerusalem Post of April 2 to see a photograph of myself amidst a group of Israeli and Palestinian children whom I was teaching to do stonemasonry in my sculpture workshop at the Yafeh Nof School. What I wonder is, why did you not see fit to give column inches to describe this wonderful, positive, momentous event?

Actually, it was the second such occasion, as the first took place on March 31, between another class of the Palestinian Hope Flowers School and the children of Keshet School here in Jerusalem. The world's media — TV and radio — were there, but I only managed to see BBC's Jeremy Bowen's short report on the event, which he said was "the most hopeful sight in the past two weeks!"

I am a sculptor and I came over from England specifically to do these workshops, helped by sponsorship from many friends, including British Airways. I wanted to show these children that they are not so very different as some adults would have them believe, and that is much more fun to carve stones together than to throw them at each other.

MO GARDNER

Jerusalem.

RESTITUTION FROM AUSTRIA

Sir, — I refer to Mrs. Mandelstam's letter of April 3. The delay in payment of Austrian restitution is not the fault of Hannah Lessing and her devoted, hard-working crew, but rather the responsibility of the Austrian authorities, who took more than 50 years to pass the Restitution Law.

As to former concentration-camp inmates, they are entitled to special payments from the Austrian government, a matter which, regrettably, has never been mentioned in our local press. Mrs. Mandelstam should apply for this special pension; details can be obtained from the Irgun Olei Merkaz Europa, or the Austrian Embassy.

HANS LANGBANK

Haifa.

GRAPEVINE

A triple blessing

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

LIKE THE popular Pessah song "Who knows one?" Leah and Claude Azrat, a young Jerusalem couple, discovered by degrees that they were headed for a multiple blessing. When Leah, who had just completed a marketing and advertising course, became pregnant, the couple eagerly looked forward to their first child. Then in her sixth week of pregnancy, she was involved in a traffic accident and taken to Hadassah where an ultrasound test showed not only that there was no damage to the fetus, but that she was expecting twins. Two weeks later, her own doctor at Misgav Ladach told her to prepare for triplets.



Esther Salmovitz: On the comeback trail. (Ezra Hersh)

Leah's two boys and a girl were delivered last week by cesarean in the 33rd week by Misgav Ladach director Dr. Michael Stark.

THE DISTAFF ratio in the 15th Knesset may get another boost with the announcement that Esther Salmovitz is making a political comeback. Elected on the Tsomet ticket to the 13th Knesset, Salmovitz, who had a falling-out with the party's leader Rafael Eitan, failed to gain reelection in the 14th. Salmovitz, who is reportedly toying with the idea of vying for a seat in the next Knesset, may start off by running for the job of mayor of Nahariya.

AMONG THE expatriates who've come home for the holiday is internationally acclaimed artist Rimona Kedem, who lives in Australia. Kedem's family in Tel Aviv can't spoil her the way they used to. Now on a macrobiotic diet, she disdains her mother's chicken soup and kneidlach and her sisters couldn't tempt her with any of their delicacies either.

IT ISN'T usual for men to take up women's causes, but Radio 2's Avi Bettelheim could hardly stop himself given the fact that close to 250 women in the week before Pessah applied for a haven at Na'amat and WIZO shelters for battered women. The festival of freedom, said Bettelheim, should not be perceived only in national terms but in the right of women to live free and independent lives outside the circle of family violence.

WHEN HIS Gefen publishing company sponsored a memorial exhibition of photographs by Tim Gidal at the Jerusalem Book Fair, Murray Greenfield had no inkling as to where this would lead. On the last day of the fair, Jonathan Benjamin Kisch of Jerusalem pointed to the photo of Brigadier Frederick Kisch, chief engineer of Montgomery's Eighth Army, who fell at its last battle in Wadi Akarit, Tunisia, on April 17, 1943. "That's a photo of my father," announced Jonathan Kisch.

A Holocaust survivor recognized his boyhood friend Heniek Kochan, who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Kochan came here after the war with the first legal Youth Aliya group, joined the Hagana and was killed in the battle for Safed.

NO STRANGER to Israel, celebrated Italian author Umberto Eco is here again to participate in The Mishkenot Encounters for Religion and Culture. Eco's best-known work is his 1980 bestseller *The Name of the Rose*, which was subsequently adapted into a highly successful movie starring Sean Connery as a medieval monk turned detective. One wonders whether his visit to the Mifmouna celebrations next week will inspire another book by this most intellectual of novelists.

WILL THERE be a number nine? That's the guessing game in Hollywood these days now that Elizabeth Taylor has finalized her divorce from husband



Umberto Eco: Visiting Jerusalem. (Ezra Hersh)

number eight Larry Fortensky.

MOST MEN run a mile from their mothers-in-law. Not so with Jay Leno. When his wife Mavis asked him to buy a house for her mom, Jay bought the one next door.

EVEN TOUGH guys can have touchy tickers.

After undergoing successful heart surgery, film director Mr. Muscle Arnold Schwarzenegger is recuperating in a Los Angeles hospital.

Antisemitism taints Nixon Center project

Officials of the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation in California have halted preparations for construction of a \$6 million building because of a controversy over anti-semitic writings of its long-deceased namesake, Nixon benefactor Elmer H. Bobst.

The decision on the Bobst Institute followed a meeting last week of the board of directors of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom, a Birthplace Foundation subsidiary and think tank whose image and independence the board considers threatened by association with the Bobst name.

The voting members, who included former secretary of state Henry Kissinger, former defense secretary James Schlesinger and senator John McCain, called for immediate consultation with the foundation on "problems surrounding the creation of the Bobst Institute," according to center president and spokesman Dimetri Simes.

"There will be no Bobst Institute if we stay with the foundation," said one of those at the meeting who asked not to be identified. Nixon's daughters, Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, are board members but were not present.

Construction of the institute, a gift to the Nixon Foundation by Bobst's widow, Mamdouha, was scheduled to start this month at the Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California.

Preparations apparently have been postponed in the face of what one official called a "profound institutional self-examination" over the Bobst matter.

The delay is aimed at permitting negotiations between the Nixon daughters, who committed the foundation to the project, and longtime allies of the late president who are outraged at the prospect of a forced marriage with Bobst's name.

In one of his letters to the Oval Office - letters that surfaced recently among Nixon papers at the National Archives - Bobst states that

"malicious" Jews have "troubled the world from the very beginning." "We must bear in mind that the majority of the people in this country are anti-Jewish," he said in a September 16, 1972, phone call transcribed by Nixon's secretary.

"We don't permit them to come into our areas if we can help it. We try to keep them out of clubs, etc. Remember there are a lot of people who do not like them at all."

There were other communications in that vein. Nixon himself was known to rail against Jews.

The Watergate tapes are filled with Nixonian fulminations against a "Jewish cabal" in federal agencies and "rich Jews" among prominent Democrats who "are stealing in every direction."

Why are Nixon loyalists so concerned about Bobst?

"President Nixon said many terri-

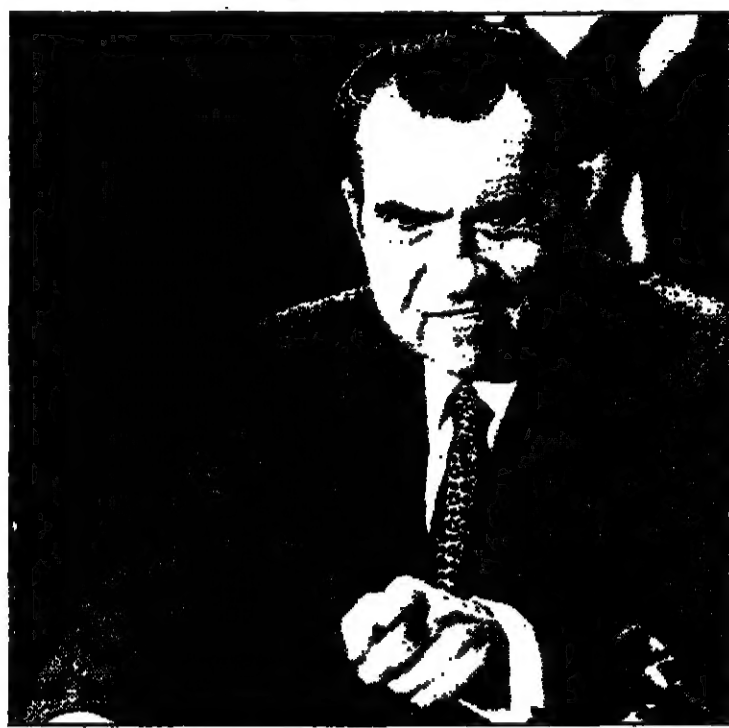
ble things, particularly when he felt embattled or emotional, and I do not defend them," Simes said. "But there is absolutely no evidence that those sentiments ever played a part in either his political appointments or his public policies."

"We have a public record to weigh against those unfortunate private outbursts."

"Bobst may well have been just as fair-minded in public life, but we have no comparable public record against which to judge what he wrote. So for many members of the center board, there is a difference. And it is a difference I understand," Simes said.

According to sources, some have talked of demanding the return of million-dollar contributions to the Nixon Foundation if the Bobst project isn't scrapped.

(The Washington Post)



The ex-president's loyalists are not eager to name a Nixon institute after its antisemitic benefactor, the late Elmer H. Bobst. (Camera Press)

Not Page One

Never say die

By Sam Orbaum

In some ways, Max is a typical new immigrant: he had to undergo preparation, paperwork, upheaval, packing and unpacking, excitement and anxiety.

Like all new Israelis, Max came here with ambitious optimism.

But there was something a bit out of the ordinary when Max presented himself to the Absorption Ministry official at the airport:

"Name?"

"Max Sobel."

"Age?"

"Ninety-six."

And then Max turned on his trademark charm, and the official, belying her soulless profession, saw him off with a kiss.

Max is the sort of fellow who can melt the crust off the most miserably clerk. He leaves 'em grinning wherever he's been. His good humor rolls forth as if he

recalls visiting Herzl's grave - in Vienna.

He rambles a bit, repeats himself sometimes, but ask him a question, and he's off, jauntily regaling his much, much younger audience with colorful recollections of the Russian Revolution, World War I, and "when Germany was the best place for the Jews."

His hearing isn't so good, he's bent and his legs need a little shake to get working, but once he gets himself wound up, he's full o' beans. In the airport on the way here, he hooked up with a traveling Mexican band and entertained waiting passengers with a modest Fred Astaire imitation.

He's almost 97, for goodness sake!

He swims. Well, not like he used to, he chuckles. "Now just in the bathtub."

And incredibly, until a few

The last straw was when his cousin, about to be married, was gang-raped and flung down a well. There had to be a better place for a Jew to be a Jew.

has nothing to worry about. Death wouldn't even rank among his top 10 concerns.

"I didn't come here to die, you know. I came here to live."

He'd wanted to settle here since his first visit - in 1921. He left his shtetl in Ukraine, where he'd become more than a little fed up with the regularity of pogroms inflicted on the 35 Jewish families by their 80,000 neighbors. The last straw was when his cousin, about to be married, was gang-raped and flung down a well. There had to be a better place for a Jew to be a Jew.

Palestine held out that promise, but in 1921, they weren't looking for nice, they wanted tough.

"They needed men for road-building, they told me. But I had this curvature of the spine, so they said go to the United States, maybe they can straighten you out. Then, you can come back."

He settled in Burlington, Vermont, and found work with a caring Jewish family in their department store ("I made a living, but I didn't set the world on fire"). In all that time, for 75 years, he dreamed of living in Eretz Yisrael.

So why didn't he? The usual reasons. His wife didn't want to live here, he was settled in his job, they'd bought a modest home. But with the years came widowhood and retirement, and the chance he waited for.

Max has had a lot to remember in his nearly 97 years, so he can be forgiven for forgetting a few details, such as where he now lives (if he should ask, it's Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood). But the ol' noggin still works fine. He can still recall back as far as oh-six, when he entered the renowned Grodna Yeshiva. He remembers "meeting" Trotsky - well, almost; "he was only a couple of miles away," he chuckles. And he

weeks before he made aliya, Max was still driving. In fact, he had just bought a new car two months before he left Burlington.

Now that he's in Israel, you don't suppose he's going to just sit around and wait for the end to come? Nah. "I plan to join the army," he says. "I want to fight the terrorists."

I suspect he may be kidding.

His expectations are a tad more sedentary than that: he'll be walking quite a bit, he's determined to learn Hebrew and most of all, he wants to learn Torah and Gemara. "And if he picks up where he left off in Burlington, he'll be wooing lady friends young enough to be his grandmother's granddaughters."

He'd like to do some touring. He allows that the country has changed in 75 years, but his most cherished destination, "the Koytel [Kotel]," promises to be unchanged, to the brick. The biggest single difference between Jerusalem then and now? He wrinkles his nose. "Then, it was full of shmooztz."

Beit Shemesh is another old haunt he wants to visit. That's where he was domiciled during his eight-month stay in 1921. "Is Beit Shemesh still there? I'd like to see it someday."

There is a beautiful lightness to his lilted, Yiddish-tinged expression. His skin is rippled but smooth, his lively blue eyes evince a clever, wise and gentle soul. He has a sweet habit of taking your hand when he speaks to you, or stroking your knee. Max is funny in the best way: he doesn't try to be.

"In 1921 the Jewish Agency gave me money to go to America, to fix my spine. I owe them still that money. So I made my will that if I die, all my money goes to the JNF."

Did you catch that? "If."

PARENTING

Why crying can be beneficial for your kids - and for you

By RUTH MASON

Your child is crying. Depending on the circumstances, your mood and temperament - and on how you were treated when you cried as a child - you either soothe and comfort him, try to get him to talk about what's bothering him, tell him big boys don't cry or send him to his room to cool off.

Each of these responses is ultimately aimed at getting the child to stop crying. But have you ever considered that shedding tears may actually be beneficial for your child? That expressing sadness through the most natural means your child has, rather than repressing it, is the best way to overcome it?

We all know that crying means you feel bad, and if there's anything we don't want, it's for our children to feel bad. Many of us also feel that crying is a sign of weakness, of being a baby, of a lack of self-control. But there's another attitude we can have

toward tears: they are a process of releasing sadness and pain.

Studies suggest that shedding tears is actually good for you. William Frey, Ph.D., and his team at the St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center in Minnesota, studied the chemical composition of tears and found that tears rid the body of stress-related chemicals. Frey, who is research director at the medical center's Ramsey Dry Eye and Tear Research Center, also studied the crying habits of 331 adults. Eighty-five percent of the women and 73 percent of the men reported feeling better after crying.

Participants reported an average of a 40 percent reduction in sadness and anger after crying.

If you're going to allow your child to release her bad feelings through tears, it's important to stay with her as she cries. While listening to a child cry is hard for any parent, there are some things you can do to make it easier. Breathing deeply helps you to stay calm. Physical touch, as well as eye contact, is reassuring to your

child. You don't have to do much else beside listen empathetically - and just be there.

Patty Wipfler, director of the Parents' Leadership Institute in Palo Alto, California, and an advocate of letting children cry with support, believes that this is a prime time to say, "I love you so much, and I'm sorry this is hard." She says, "All their defenses are down. They're pouring out hurt, and as they pour it out you want to fill in that hole with your love and acceptance of them no matter how they feel."

The key, says Wipfler, "is to listen, to stay close, and to let the rush of feelings flow. It's much easier to deal with emotions if they are allowed to run their course and be heard."

Much as we want to, we can't take our children's pain away. But we can help them get through it. It will be easier for you to do so, of course, if you have your own sympathetic ear - a spouse, relative or friend - to whom you can pour out your own difficult feelings.

Mifal Hapayis
Lottery no. 1497

13 million NIS

NOT SIMPLY A MILLIONAIRE!

In the Lotto

Draw Thursday

Bonn: Criteria of Maastricht not dogma

BONN (Reuters) - A top foreign policy spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party said yesterday he could imagine Germany being allowed to qualify for European monetary union with a budget deficit slightly above the limit agreed by EU states.

The limit of three percent of gross domestic product agreed by EU members forced economies to tackle structural reform rather than spend to mask weaknesses, Karl Lamers, parliamentary foreign affairs spokesman for the Christian Democrats, told MDR regional radio.

He said this aspect was more important than a narrow fixation on the actual size of the budget deficit.

"Whether this ultimately has to be 3.0% or 3.1%, that's a different question," he said.

Lamers said he could imagine Germany would be treated with leniency because of the huge costs imposed by German unification.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, keen to reassure Germans that the single currency will be as strong as the mark, is adamant that Germany's 1997 budget deficit will be no more than 3.0%. He rejects the idea that it might be slightly higher and then rounded down.

But most economists believe Germany will record a deficit slightly above 3.0% for 1997 - the year according to which economies are to be judged in order to qualify for a planned monetary union start in January 1999.

Germany's top economic research institutes said yesterday they expected a deficit of 3.2% in 1997.

But they said they still expected Germany to be admitted to the single currency as member governments decided that long-term sound and sustainable policies were more important than a very strict interpretation of the single currency criteria.

Nomura head quits amid scandal

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's largest securities company, trying to win back customers after a scandal over shady stock deals, said yesterday it is changing its management, with the president resigning and 15 other executives being demoted.

Nomura Securities Co. president Masashi Suzuki announced the latest in a series of largely symbolic self-inflicted penalties for the company's involvement in deals allegedly made for racketeers.

"With these actions, Nomura will try to recover the trust of the public and of the markets as fast as we possibly can," Suzuki told a news conference.

Suzuki, 61, offered "utmost apologies" for the scandal, although he also stressed that he was not directly to blame.

Last month, two Nomura managing directors resigned amid allegations that they made unauthorized stock transactions and funneled the profits into the account of a client allegedly linked to organized crime.

Prosecutors suspect that one of the two, Shimppei Matsuki, formerly in charge of equities trading, gave 38 million yen (\$300,000) to racketeers who specialize in protecting shareholders' meetings when paid, and disrupting them when not.

As a result of the scandal, sev-

eral trust banks have decided to suspend their business with Nomura, and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. stopped using Nomura to underwrite its shares.

Suzuki will resign May 1 as president, a post he assumed only last month, though he will continue as chairman, the company said in a statement.

Former Nomura president Hideo Sakamaki already had stepped down early last month to assume responsibility for the scandal, and Sakamaki's predecessor had resigned in 1991 following a separate scandal over paybacks to major clients to compensate them for trading

losses.

The heads of Japanese companies and government agencies often take such symbolic responsibility for scandals. But they usually retain full retirement benefits, and often take other positions that allow them to quietly reassume their senior posts later.

Nomura said 15 other senior executives will be demoted over the latest scandal.

They include five vice presidents and four senior managing directors, who all will give up representation rights.

These rights allow them to make decisions, statements and actions on behalf of the compa-

ny.

The company said Suzuki will be replaced by Junichi Ujii, 51, currently a managing director.

"I understand my task is to build up a management structure with high transparency as soon as possible," Ujii told a nationally televised news conference.

Ujii said the revamped Nomura will abide by clear-cut rules.

Japanese news media had reported Nomura's anticipated move earlier in the day.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, Nomura shares closed yesterday's trading at 1,370 yen (\$11) a share, up 70 yen (56 cents) from Monday's close.

Canadian tobacco firms fight ad ban

MONTREAL (Reuters) - Canada's three major tobacco companies will go to court tomorrow to try to block a federal ban on most tobacco advertising from taking effect this week.

A Quebec Superior Court judge will hear a lawsuit filed on Monday by Imperial Tobacco Ltd., RJR-Macdonald Inc. and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc., which seeks an injunction to block the tobacco bill.

The lawsuit alleged that the legislation, which would prohibit most tobacco advertising and curtail tobacco company sponsorship of sporting and cultural events, was unconstitutional.

The suit also argued that the measure repudiates a 1995 Canadian Supreme Court ruling that struck down an earlier act limiting tobacco advertising.

The bill has passed Canada's House of Commons and Senate and is awaiting royal assent.

The measure has provoked strong reaction on both sides of the smoking issue.

Anti-smoking activists said the law was long overdue. But some Quebec legislators voiced concern about its impact on funding for such events as the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Montreal Grand Prix formula one car race.

Michel Descoteaux, a spokesman for Imperial Tobacco, said the tobacco companies and thousands of retail stores carrying tobacco advertising would be in violation of the law as soon as it received royal assent from Canada's Governor-General.

An injunction against certain sections of the law would allow business as usual while the legal issues were sorted out in court, he said.

Canadian Health Minister David Dingwall reacted coolly to news of the lawsuit, saying the tobacco companies were playing "the same old game."

Imperial Tobacco is a unit of Inasco Ltd., which controls about 65 percent of the Canadian cigarette market.

Inasco is 40 percent-owned by B.A.T. Industries Plc of Britain.

Rothmans, Benson and Hedges Inc. is Canada's second biggest tobacco company. It is 60%-owned by Rothmans Inc. and 40% by Philip Morris Cos Inc.

Rothmans Inc. is a unit of Rothmans International Plc, which is owned by Swiss luxury goods holding company Cie Financiere Richemont.

RJR MacDonald is wholly owned by RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. unit R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International.

Court rejects case against former Kuwaiti minister

KUWAIT (AP) - A special court yesterday refused to hear a multi-million dollar embezzlement case against a member of the royal family who formerly served as oil minister.

The decision - on a technicality - followed more than three years of legal maneuvering by the defense team of Sheikh Ali Khalifa Sabah.

He was accused of "making it possible" as minister in the later part of the last decade for officials of the state-run Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. to embezzle millions of dollars.

The scheme involved leasing 32 tankers from ghost companies at higher-than-usual fees and pocketing the difference.

No evidence was heard in the case against Sheikh Ali since the beginning of legal action in January 1994.

His lawyers initially fought to take the case out of a criminal court to a special tribunal for ministers.

When they succeeded last year, they argued their client had been "illegally" referred to the special court by the prosecutor-general.

They asked the court to reject the case, which it did yesterday.

They said that according to a

1995 law regulating how cases against ministers should be handled.

Sheikh Ali should have been investigated by a panel of three judges and not public prosecutors. The case then should go to the special court, they said.

There was no immediate word on whether the government would try to take Sheikh Ali to court again.

The oil tankers company says its former officials embezzled up to 60 million dinars (\$200 million).

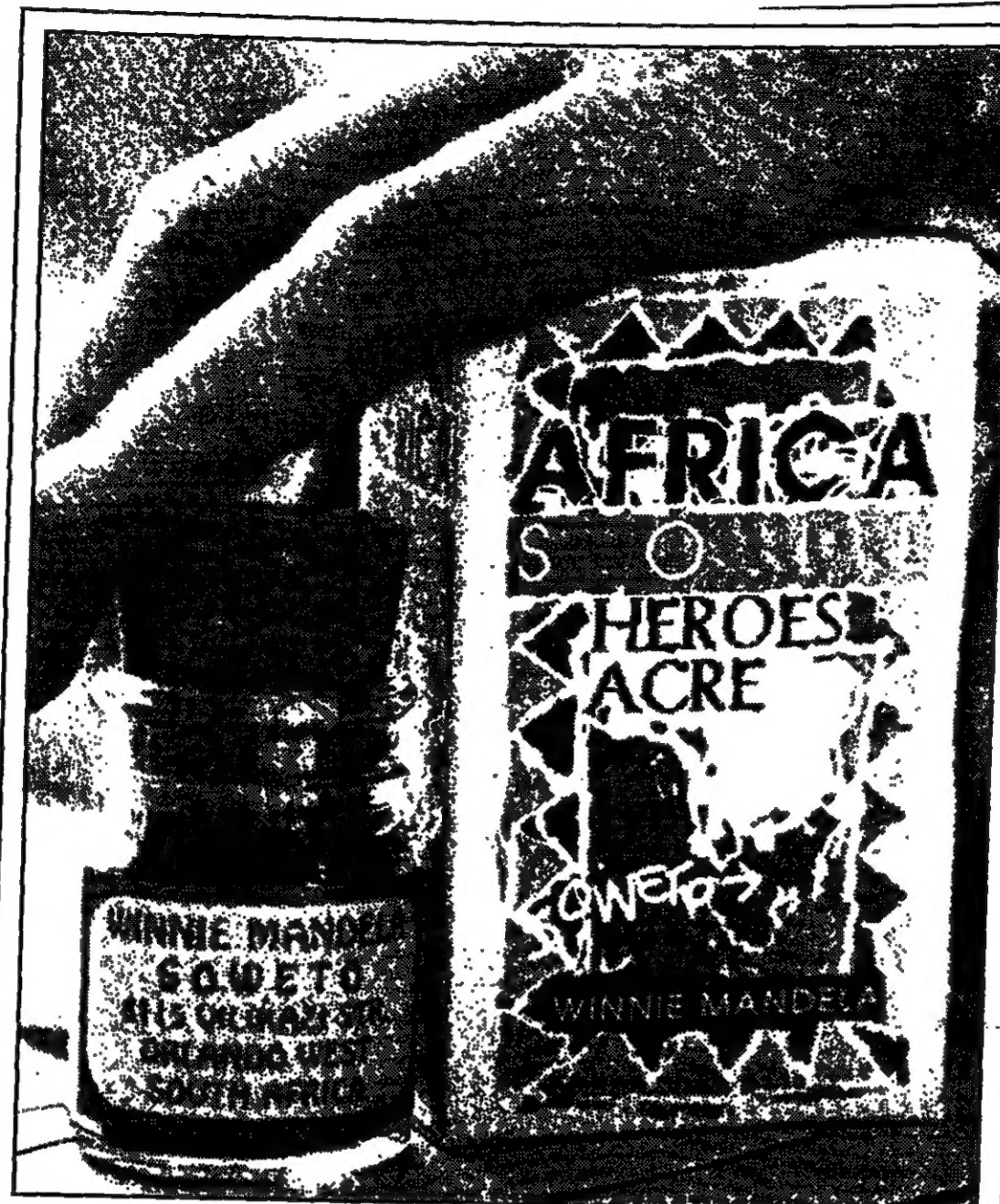
A criminal court sentenced three of these officials, two Kuwaitis and a Jordanian, to lengthy prison terms and ordered them to jointly repay 18.9 million dinars (\$63m.).

They also were fined an identical sum.

But a higher court followed by cancelling the convictions last month, saying that the June 25 ruling was not dated by the criminal court.

It ordered a retrial of the officials before the special tribunal for ministers.

Abdullah Jawad Yalil, a member of Sheikh Ali's defense team, said yesterday's ruling did not mention the case of the three former officials.



Mandela soil on sale

Soil from the former home of South African President Nelson Mandela is on sale from his ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, at the house they once shared. Tourists will have to pay 50 rand (\$12) a bottle to claim their piece of history. The house is one of many "struggle sites" that form part of a thriving tourist industry in Soweto.

(Reuters)

US efforts to liberalize trade with Africa applauded

WASHINGTON (AP) - South Africa welcomes efforts to liberalize trade between the US and African countries, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday.

Mbeki had a nearly hour-long meeting with Vice President Al Gore at the White House. He said he is encouraged by US interest in a "trade and investment initiative" as a means of strengthening democracy and spurring economic reforms among African nations.

"We want to have more discus-

sions," Mbeki said. "I think it's important if, indeed, steps can be taken further to facilitate US investment into the Africa continent and open up the US markets for African products."

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who spent two weeks in Africa last month, said Monday her husband will work with Congress on generating more trade with Africa.

She sketched out the idea before a conference of US corporate leaders and African officials devoted to drawing more capital to the region.

She said the continent is

"bulging with possibilities for political, economic and social progress" and it is important to nurture hopes dashed so many times in the past.

"It would be our loss if we failed to take advantage of the opportunities that a growth-oriented Africa represents," she said at a dinner sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa, a nonprofit group of US businesses.

In a brief videotaped greeting to the group, President Clinton said countries such as Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, South Africa and the Ivory Coast "have done an inspiring job of opening

their economies to the world. My administration is committed to expanding our partnership with Africa," he said, stopping short of offering anything as dramatic as the free trade agreement negotiated with Canada and Mexico.

But he said African governments must also do their part by taking actions such as reducing deficits and rooting out corruption.

"These steps are difficult but they are the only path to sustained economic growth," Clinton said.

White House officials said part of the aim of any legislative package would be to lower US tariffs on African goods.

ROME (Reuters) - Italian industrialists attacked the ultra left yesterday for changing legislation covering reform of the labor market and urged the government to call a vote of confidence to restore the bill to its original form.

The move follows amendments made recently in the upper house of parliament, the Senate, to a wide-ranging pact signed last September by Prime Minister Romano Prodi with unions and business leaders in a bid to cut Italy's army of unemployed.

The reforms were introduced by the extreme left Communist Refoundation when the pact went before the Senate for ratification.

The package is currently under examination in the lower house labor committee and is due to go before the full house at the end of the month. Both chambers must approve the pact before it can become law.

"We are deeply worried about the pact... which is now very different from the September accord," said Giorgio Fossa, head of the industrialists' federation Confindustria.

"The government has to have the strength to push the deal for-

ward, and if it finds difficulty within the coalition, then perhaps it should call a confidence vote," Fossa told reporters after a meeting with Prodi.

The center-left government, which has so far called 19 confidence votes in less than a year in office, relies on Communist Refoundation for its parliamentary majority.

The September accord, reached after lengthy negotiations, included a shorter working week, incentives for people starting up their own businesses, tax breaks on research and encouragement for training schemes.

But when the labor bill passed through the Senate, the ultra-left party managed to water down plans to introduce more flexibility in Italy's rigid labor market, including a move to boost temporary job schemes.

"If the [bill] remains in the same form as when it was approved by the Senate, then it would be better not to have it at all," Fossa said.

Communist Refoundation warned it would not back the government if Prodi decided to call a confidence vote in a bid to return the labor accord to its previous form.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.8.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275	
British sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.925	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.4.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.647	3.703	3.31	3.408
German mark	3.588	3.422	1.92	2.03
British sterling	1.929	1.948	0.46	0.57
French franc	0.589	0.594	0.47	0.57
Japanese yen (100)	2.672	2.714	2.82	2.76
Dutch florin	1.742	1.744	1.71	1.80
Swiss franc	2.377	2.340	2.28	2.38
Swedish krona	0.448	0.448	0.43	0.48
Norwegian krona	0.470	0.487	0.46	0.48
Danish krone	0.510	0.524	0.50	0.54
Finland mark	0.482	0.487	0.48	0.57
Canadian dollar	2.454	2.442	2.36	2.48
Australian dollar	2.518	2.628	2.56	2.70
S. African rand	0.753	0.786	0.88	0.77
Belgian franc (10)	0.9512	0.966	0.93	0.97
Austrian schilling (10)	2.786	2.838	2.74	2.88
Italian lire (1000)	1.871	2.012	1.95	2.05
Jordanian dinar	4.890	5.010	4.88	5.01
Egyptian pound	0.900	1.040	0.96	1.04
ECU	3.833	3.882	3.72	3.872
Spanish peseta (100)	5.218	5.305	5.12	5.24
	2.327	2.361	2.28	2.40
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

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P A C
M E D
INVESTMENTS

INVESTMENTS

SPORTS

in brief

Fed Cup team beats Georgia

The national women's tennis team marched to a 3-0 victory over Georgia in their first clash in the Federation Cup, European Group 1, in Bari, Italy yesterday.

Anna Smashnova, 213 in the WTA rankings, defeated Nina Louarsabishvili 6-4, 6-4 while Hila Rosen (256) wasted little time against Sofia Managadze, winning 6-3, 6-1.

The Israeli doubles pair of Rosen and Tzipi Obziler (383) completed the trend of not dropping a set as they subdued Louarsabishvili and Irena Kakoulia 6-2, 6-0.

Today Israel face Latvia, whose team includes top doubles player Larisa Neiland.

Heather Chait

Olympiakos, Barcelona reach Euro final

ROME (Reuters) - Olympiakos reached their third European basketball championship final in four years yesterday when they beat Ljubljana of Slovenia 74-65 in the semifinals of the Final Four tournament. Barcelona overcame Villeurbanne of France 77-70 in the second semifinal.

Playmaker David Rivers, formerly with the Los Angeles Lakers, was on top of his game for Olympiakos, top-scoring with 28 points to the delight of 5,500 fervent Greek supporters.

Sampras, Muster, Becker out in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (Reuters) - Pete Sampras and Thomas Muster, the top two players in the world, again found how hard it is to adapt to clay as they tumbled out of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday.

The American world No. 1 bowed to Sweden's Magnus Larsson 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 while Muster lost to Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 7-6.

Boris Becker was another big name to bid an early farewell to the first major claycourt event of the season when he went down to Italy's Renzo Furlan 1-6, 6-3, 7-6.

O'Sullivan races to fastest maximum break

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) - Ronnie O'Sullivan raced to the fastest 147 maximum break in the 21-year history of the world professional snooker championship on Monday. O'Sullivan took only five minutes 20 seconds to clear the table in the 14th frame of his first round 10-6 win over fellow-Englishman Mike Price. The world No. 8 is only the fourth man to make a maximum break in the final stages of the tournament and, unless anyone equals it, will pick up an added prize of £147,000 (\$240,000). The three previous players to make a maximum break were Canadian Cliff Thorburn in 1983, Englishman Jimmy White in 1992 and current world number one Stephen Hendry of Scotland two years ago.

'Boro reach FA Cup final for first time

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) - Middlesbrough reached the FA Cup final for the first time in their 121-year history after finally overcoming giants Chelsea 3-0 in a semifinal replay at Hillsborough last night.

Middlesbrough won with goals from Mikkel Beck, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Brazilian midfielder Emerson to end the stubborn resistance of the second division side who held them to a 3-3 draw at Old Trafford. They now face Chelsea in the final at Wembley on May 17.

On Monday night, Arsenal's hopes of snatching England's second European Champions' League spot

were dented by relegation strugglers Coventry when they were held to a 1-1 premiership league draw.

It left Arsenal in second place on 65 points but only one point ahead of Liverpool, who have a game in hand, and four points behind leaders Manchester United who have played two matches fewer.

British league and cup results last night: Premier League: Blackburn 4, Sheffield Wednesday 1; Leeds 0, Aston Villa 0; Sunderland 0, Southampton 1; Wimbledon 0, Chelsea 1.

Division One: Ipswich 1, Manchester City 0; Portsmouth 4, Barnsley 2.

Division Two: Blackpool 1, Brentford 0; Luton 0, Bury 0; Stockport 2, York 1; Wrexham 1, Crewe 1.

Scottish P.A. Cup semifinal replay: Kilmarnock 1, Dundee United 0.

Inter lose 1-0 at Monaco but reach UEFA Cup final

MONACO (Reuters) - Internazionale reached their third UEFA Cup final of the decade despite going down 1-0 to Monaco in the second leg of their semifinal last night, qualifying 3-2 on aggregate.

The Italian side, winners in 1991 and 1994, made the winners of the other semifinal between Schalke of Germany and Spain's Tenerife in the two-leg final next month.

Nigerian striker Victor Ikpeba, who scored Monaco's only goal in a 3-1 first leg defeat in Milan, gave the French league leaders new hope when he volleyed home in the 70th minute.

Inter claimed handball but the referee patted the right side of his chest, indicating that midfielder Sylvain Legwinski had controlled the ball legally as he laid on the goal.

Juve defend 2-1 lead; United face biggest game in three decades

LONDON (AP) - Juventus have every advantage going into their Champions Cup second-leg semifinal at home to Ajax. And that's making some Juve players nervous.

"Keep an eye on Ajax - they're capable of anything," said Juventus and Italian national defender Ciro Ferrara. "We have a small advantage, but they're incredibly motivated - no less than we are - and are still a tough team."

Juventus, leading 2-1 going into tonight's match at home at sold out Delle Alpi stadium, won the Champions Cup on penalties last year over Ajax after a 1-1 draw. The Dutch club has been in the last two finals - winning two years ago - and are undefeated in their last 14 European cup away games.

In that span Ajax have won 10, drawn four and scored 22 goals while conceding just four.

The other semifinal has Germany's Dortmund taking a 1-0 lead to Manchester United, who are facing their biggest match in three decades.

United, on course for their fourth English league title in five years, are trying to reach the final of Europe's most prestigious cup tournament for the first time since winning it in 1968. They are also trying to become the first English club to make the final since Liverpool in 1985.

No German club has reached the Champions Cup final in 10 years and Dortmund have never made it. Their only European silverware came with a victory in the 1966 Cup Winners' Cup.

Penguins on oblivion's edge

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Eric Lindros, John LeClair and Mikael Renberg - the Legion of Doom line - scored during a 40-shot flurry in the first two periods and the Philadelphia Flyers left Pittsburgh on the brink of playoff elimination by winning 5-3 Monday night.

Jaromir Jagr scored twice as the Penguins took a 2-1 lead after the first period despite 28 shots by the Flyers, a playoff record for one period by Philadelphia.

But the Flyers again dominated the second period to open a 3-0 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference series. Pat Falloon tied it, Lindros gave them the lead and LeClair put it out of reach for the Flyers, who

have outscored the Penguins 5-0 in the second period of the series.

The Flyers can accomplish Wednesday what no team has done in the Mario Lemieux era by sweeping Pittsburgh in a four-game series. The Penguins had never before trailed 3-0 in a series with Lemieux, who will retire at the end of the playoffs.

NHL playoffs first round (Best-of-7)

Monday's results: Buffalo 3, Ottawa 2 (Buffalo leads series 2-1); Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 3 (Philadelphia 3-0).

Sunday's results: New York 3, Florida 0 (series tied 1-1); Detroit 3, St. Louis 2 (Detroit 2-1); Phoenix 4, Anaheim 1 (Anaheim 2-1); Chicago 4, Colorado 3, OT (Colorado 2-1); Edmonton 4, Dallas 3, OT (Edmonton 2-1).

Bullets face Bulls in playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) - It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the Chicago Bulls are the team to beat in the NBA playoffs. They're the defending champs, they won 69 regular season games, they have Michael Jordan. Etc., etc., etc.

But who else is out there? That's the question in the first few weeks of the marathon postseason.

The best-of-5 first round begins tomorrow night with four games: Charlotte at New York, Orlando at Miami, Minnesota at Houston and the Los Angeles Clippers at Utah.

The other four series begin Friday with Detroit at Atlanta, Washington at Chicago, Phoenix at Seattle and Portland at the Los Angeles Lakers.

A twist to the first round is the success that the lower-seeded teams have had against their higher-seeded opponents during the regular season.

The No. 3 and 4 teams in the East both lost their season series 3-1 to their first-round opponent, Charlotte beating New York and Detroit defeating Atlanta.

In the West, the fifth-seeded Trail Blazers beat the fourth-seeded Lakers in three of four games, including the regular-season finale Sunday, and seventh-seeded Phoenix split its season series with Seattle, winning the final two games in March.

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PLAYOFF BOUND - Bulls' Chris Webber (r) drives to the basket defended by 76ers' Tyrone Hill. Washington won the season finale to take the 8th Eastern Conference playoff spot. (AP)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Utah vs. LA Clippers: Utah has a history of playoff failures, but the Jazz have never gone into the postseason with the best record in the West.

They are really tough to beat at home. The Clippers, meanwhile, are the worst of the playoff teams.

Utah won three of the four games in the season series.

Seattle vs. Phoenix: Seattle has been a team on the brink of disaster over the second half of the season as Shawn Kemp's chronic lateness and uninspired play have dragged the Sonics down. They built their 57-25 record mostly on the strength of dominating lesser teams.

The Suns often use a unique four-guard lineup with two speedy point guards, Kevin Johnson and Jason Kidd, who can break down Seattle's trapping defense.

Houston vs. Minnesota: The Rockets swept the season series 4-

0, and three of the games were blowouts. The Timberwolves had no answer for Hakeem Olajuwon, who scored 39 against them twice. Minnesota also had a problem matching up with Clyde Drexler, who scored 37 and 34 in two of the games.

LA Lakers vs. Portland: The Trail Blazers won the season series by capturing the season finale Sunday when Shaquille O'Neal missed from the free throw line with 1.2 seconds left. That major flaw in his game remains a huge factor in his new LA address.

Portland has the added advantage of having Arvydas Sabonis, who has the bulk to match O'Neal and counter his inside game.

Sabonis is also an outside scoring threat, so he will draw O'Neal away from the basket and open up the lane when the Blazers have the ball.

Houston vs. Minnesota: The Rockets swept the season series 4-

NBA Final Standings

EASTERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Y-Miami	61	21	.744	-
X-New York	57	25	.695	4
X-Orlando	45	37	.549	16
X-Washington	44	38	.537	17
New Jersey	26	56	.317	35
Philadelphia	22	60	.268	39
Boston	15	67	.183	46

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
X-Chicago	69	13	.841	-
X-Atlanta	58	24	.705	13
X-Detroit	54	28	.659	15
X-Charlotte	54	28	.659	15
Cleveland	42	40	.512	27
Indiana	39	43	.476	30
Memphis	33	49	.402	36
Toronto	30	52	.366	39

WESTERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
X-Utah	64	18	.780	-
X-Houston	57	25	.695	7
X-Minnesota	40	42	.488	24
Dallas	24	58	.293	40
Denver	21	61	.256	43
San Antonio	20	62	.244	44
Vancouver	14	68	.171	50

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
X-Seattle	57	25	.695	-
X-LA Lakers	56	26	.683	1
X-Portland	49	33	.598	8
X-Phoenix	40	42	.488	17
X-LA Clippers	36	46	.438	21
Sacramento	34	48	.415	23
Golden State	30	52	.366	27

Z-WON CONFERENCE TITLE, Y-WON DIVISION

title, X-clinched playoff berth

Sunday's results: Toronto 125, Boston 94; Washington 85, Cleveland 81; Houston 103, San Antonio 99; Portland 100, LA Lakers 96; Detroit 124, Indiana 120 (OT); New Jersey 108, Atlanta 92; Milwaukee 120, Charlotte 100; Utah 113, Sacramento 109.

Cubs win 2nd straight

NEW YORK (AP) - Errors by Butch Hickey and John Olerud led to a pair of unearned runs in the seventh inning, and the Chicago Cubs stretched their winning streak to two by beating the New York Mets 6-4 Monday.

The Cubs, 0-14 before winning the second game of Sunday's doubleheader, took a 3-0 lead, then fell behind 4-3 in the sixth.

But the Mets, who have 15 errors in 18 games, gave Chicago three runs on three errors.

Scott Servais drove in three runs for Chicago, and Frank Castillo (1-3) allowed four runs and four hits in six innings.

Terry Adams pitched 2 1/3 innings for the save.

Monday's NL results: Philadelphia 18, Pittsburgh 2; Chicago 6, NY Yankees 2; Sunday's NL results: NY Yankees 2, Chicago 2; Chicago 4, NY Yankees 3 (2nd); Montreal 5, Philadelphia 1 (1st); Montreal 3, Philadelphia 2 (2nd); Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 3; Cleveland 5, Houston 2; San Diego 4, St. Louis 2; Francisco 2, Florida 0; San Diego 4, St. Louis 2; Monday's AL results: Boston 4, Baltimore 2; NY Yankees 3, Detroit 7; Texas 6, Seattle 6; Kansas City 5, Anaheim 5; Toronto 4, 11; Sunday's AL results: Baltimore 4, 11; Boston 1; Detroit 3; Oakland 2; Cleveland 6; Milwaukee 4; Chicago 5, NY Yankees 1; Anaheim 11, Kansas City 1; Texas 10; Toronto 8; Seattle 10; Minnesota 6.

Controversy over Zohar, Banin 'suspensions'

By ORI LEVINE

Local soccer stars Itzik Zohar and Tal Banin were embroiled in scandal over the holiday after national team coach Shlomo Scharf included them in his initial squad to face Cyprus next week, despite disciplinary problems with their respective clubs, Beitar Jerusalem and Hapoel Haifa.

Both were in trouble for dissenting behavior, Zohar for having criticized Beitar coach Eli Cohen and Banin for doing the same to Hapoel Haifa coach Ivan Katalinic.

Katalinic had suspended Banin from one National League match two weeks ago and then did not call on him again last week. The suspension was not reported in writing to the IFA, however.

Zohar was also not reported to the IFA. He had had strong words with his coach after being substituted, but again, the matter remained within the jurisdiction of the club.

Scharf was unhappy with the situation but said he would not suspend the players, as no notification had been received by the IFA. Such notification is required if the IFA is to take disciplinary action.

"I am aware of events but I am not the judge of these matters and therefore I will not suspend the players," Scharf said on Israel Radio last night.

Both players could play crucial roles in the vital World Cup qualifier next Wednesday, a match which Israel must win in order to stay in the hunt for a place in the finals.

Meanwhile, central defender Gadi Brumer has again been left out of the squad, he is still feeling pain in his ankle after an operation and yesterday flew to Belgium for an examination by orthopedic expert Prof. Marc Martens.

Sports Editor: Joseph Hoffman
Staff Writer: Ori Levine

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NEWS

in brief

Three soldiers held for shooting at Arabs

Three soldiers were arrested on Monday at Mevo Betar on suspicion of shooting at two Arabs who fled in a car. The soldiers, who were off duty and on an excursion, thought the two looked suspicious and asked them to identify themselves. The two then got into a nearby car and fled. The soldiers then shot at the car, causing no injuries or damage. They were arrested by Jerusalem police to determine if the shooting was justified. The case was then transferred to the Military Police. *Itim*

Two soldiers indicted for drug dealing

Two IDF soldiers were indicted in military court recently for using and dealing in drugs, the IDF Spokesman said yesterday. The two are suspected of supplying marijuana and Ecstasy to Tel Aviv high school students before and after they entered the army. During a search of the soldiers' homes, substances suspected to be drugs were found. The investigation was held in cooperation with the Israel Police. *Itim*

Foreign worker drowns

A Romanian worker drowned yesterday afternoon when he was dragged out to sea by the undertow in an area of Ashkelon's beach that is off limits for swimming. His friend tried to save him, but eventually only could retrieve his body from the sea. *Itim*

Fire damages Amigur offices in Ashkelon

A fire in the Amigur offices in Ashkelon caused very heavy damage and took fire-fighters several hours to bring under control. Police said the probable cause was an electrical short-circuit, but they are investigating other possibilities. *Itim*

Tudjman asked to disavow fascists

The Simon Wiesenthal Center last week urged Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to disavow a fascist party that was a member of the previous governing coalition. In a letter to Tudjman, Shimon Samuels, the center's European director, stressed that now that the election in Croatia is over he should break with the Party of the Right "as a demonstration of your rejection of fascism in Croatia." The Party of the Right's electoral campaign included rallies to celebrate the 57th anniversary of the creation of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia. *Eldad Beck*

Shalom district soliciting new residents

The Shalom district communities are preparing to absorb 1,000 families in the area, southeast of the Gaza Strip. The absorption campaign is aimed mostly at young couples and adults aged 30-50. The communities are holding an open house beginning tomorrow. Prospective residents will be transported in minibuses to visit the towns. The area is offering single-family homes and employment opportunities in agriculture, tourism, and light industry. The Shalom district was established in 1981, before the evacuation of Yamit and Ophira in the Sinai. *Itim*



Seder at the top of the world

Rabbi Asi Spiegel, of Tel Aviv, offers 'shmurah' matza to young Jews attending Seder in Katmandu, Nepal. (AP)

Heavy fighting in south Lebanon

By DAVID HUDGE

Heavy fighting erupted in south Lebanon over Pessah with a series of Hizbullah attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army targets. There were no IDF or SLA casualties.

Today, the five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee is to convene at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura to discuss a complaint by Israel over an incident last week.

The complaint relates to an Hizbullah roadside bomb attack against a civilian vehicle near Deir Harfa village last Sunday in which a man was killed and other civilians were wounded.

Hizbullah maintained that the attacks were against members of the SLA against which Hizbullah has recently intensified its operations.

An SLA officer was killed by a bomb planted under his car in Bechasin village, in the Jezzine enclave, on Sunday. A short while later a second bomb was detonated alongside a car in the same area, killing another SLA soldier.

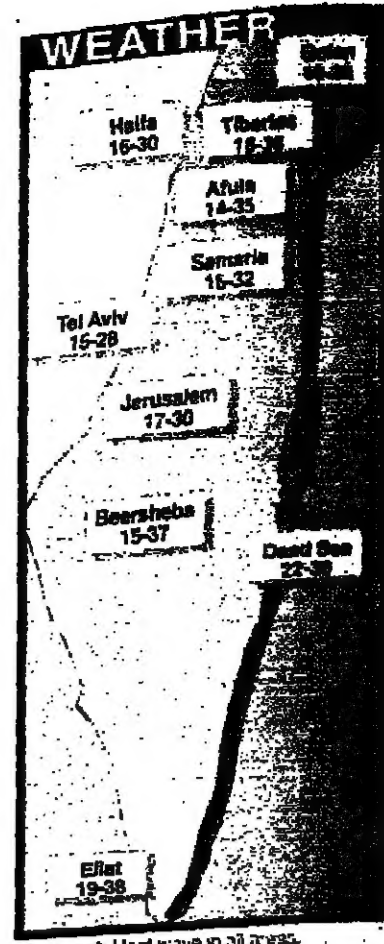
Yesterday morning, Hizbullah gunmen detonated a roadside bomb alongside a civilian vehicle in which an SLA soldier was travelling near Anan village, also in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone. The car was damaged, but the SLA soldier escaped unhurt.

Later, Hizbullah gunmen fired a Sagger anti-tank missile at an SLA armored vehicle and simultaneously launched a mortar and light weapons attack on a nearby SLA outpost. There were no casualties in either of the incidents, which occurred in the Barasheet-Beit Yahoun area in the western sector of the zone. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Yesterday afternoon, gunmen fired mortars and light weapons at IDF troops on operational duties in the eastern sector of the security zone. There were no casualties in the attack, which again prompted return fire by IDF troops.

Meanwhile, IDF troops in another part of the zone's eastern sector discovered a roadside bomb and several anti-personnel mines. Members of an SLA bomb disposal unit safely destroyed them.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah announced recently that the organization would be intensifying its operations against the SLA, after easing the pressure on it during the past year. Hizbullah officials called on SLA soldiers to desert or face the consequences of their "continued collaboration with the Zionist enemy."



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	51	61	10-15
Berlin	51	61	10-15
Brussels	51	61	10-15
Chicago	49	59	10-15
Copenhagen	51	61	10-15
Helsinki	51	61	10-15
London	51	61	10-15
Los Angeles	61	71	10-15
Madrid	51	61	10-15
Moscow	51	61	10-15
New York	51	61	10-15
Paris	51	61	10-15
Rome	51	61	10-15
Sydney	61	71	10-15
Tokyo	51	61	10-15
Vienna	51	61	10-15
Zurich	51	61	10-15

Winning cards

The winning cards in Monday's daily Chance draw were the 10 of spades, king of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

Lotto at NIS 13m.

The top prize in this week's Lotto draw will be NIS 13 million, after no one guessed all six numbers last week. This week's Lotto drawing will take place tomorrow, due to Pessah. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Israeli Arab forges new musical genres

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - Shortly after the Oslo peace process got underway, composer Nabil Azzam, a Christian Arab from Nazareth, met with Yasser Arafat and offered the PLO chief a new national anthem for his nascent Palestinian Authority.

The anthem, he proposed, would include strains from Hatikva, the Israeli national anthem, to symbolize the hoped-for amity between the two peoples.

The fate of Dr. Azzam's anthem is unknown, but his composition

can well stand as a metaphor for a musical life shaped equally by Jewish and Arab influences.

Much of Azzam's career has been intertwined with that of his friend and mentor, Prof. Moshe Lazar, starting in Israel and continuing in Los Angeles, where both men now live.

Born into a highly musical family, Azzam first met Lazar at Tel Aviv University in the early 1970s, where Lazar, a Holocaust survivor, had recently been named dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts. One of the school's affiliates was the Rubin Academy of Music, where

Lazar took note of the talented Azzam, the academy's first Arab student.

While studying violin and conducting, Azzam became the first student to head the academy orchestra in outside public performances. With Lazar's encouragement, the orchestra, under its youthful conductor, gave its first recital in Nazareth, Azzam's native city.

After graduating from TAU and the Rubin Academy, Azzam founded the Nazareth Conservatory of Music, with a mixed Jewish and Arab faculty. Teachers and students occasionally performed with musicians from nearby kibbutzim.

Azzam resumed his studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was awarded a master's degree in musicology in 1982. Shortly after his graduation, Azzam was offered a fellowship at UCLA, and packing up his wife and two small children,

moved to Los Angeles.

While earning his doctoral degree in ethnomusicology at UCLA, Azzam began to develop his own style of composition, which melded Middle Eastern and classical Western music and instruments.

Azzam is now at work on a comic opera, "The Man and the Rooster," featuring a talking rooster that always speaks the truth and casts a satirical eye on the foibles of Arabs and Jews. The finale introduces a new dance, dubbed the "dora," a combination of the Palestinian dabke and the Israeli hora.

In 1995, Azzam returned to Nazareth and formed the 50-piece Galilee Orchestra. Some of the musicians are Arabs, but most are Jewish immigrants from Russia.

Its aim is to foster a new genre of music, in which Middle Eastern compositions are performed by a full symphony orchestra, said Azzam.

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